

THE

Ellesmere MS

OF

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

[*The Ellesmere woodcuts are to be put opposite the beginnings of the Tales (not Prologues) they respectively belong to, as shown by the italic notices there of the paintings in the MS. A set of the cuts colourd is now issued, Oct. 1880, besides the plain set sent out in 1868-1871.*]

THE
Ellesmere MS
OF
Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

EDITED BY
FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL.



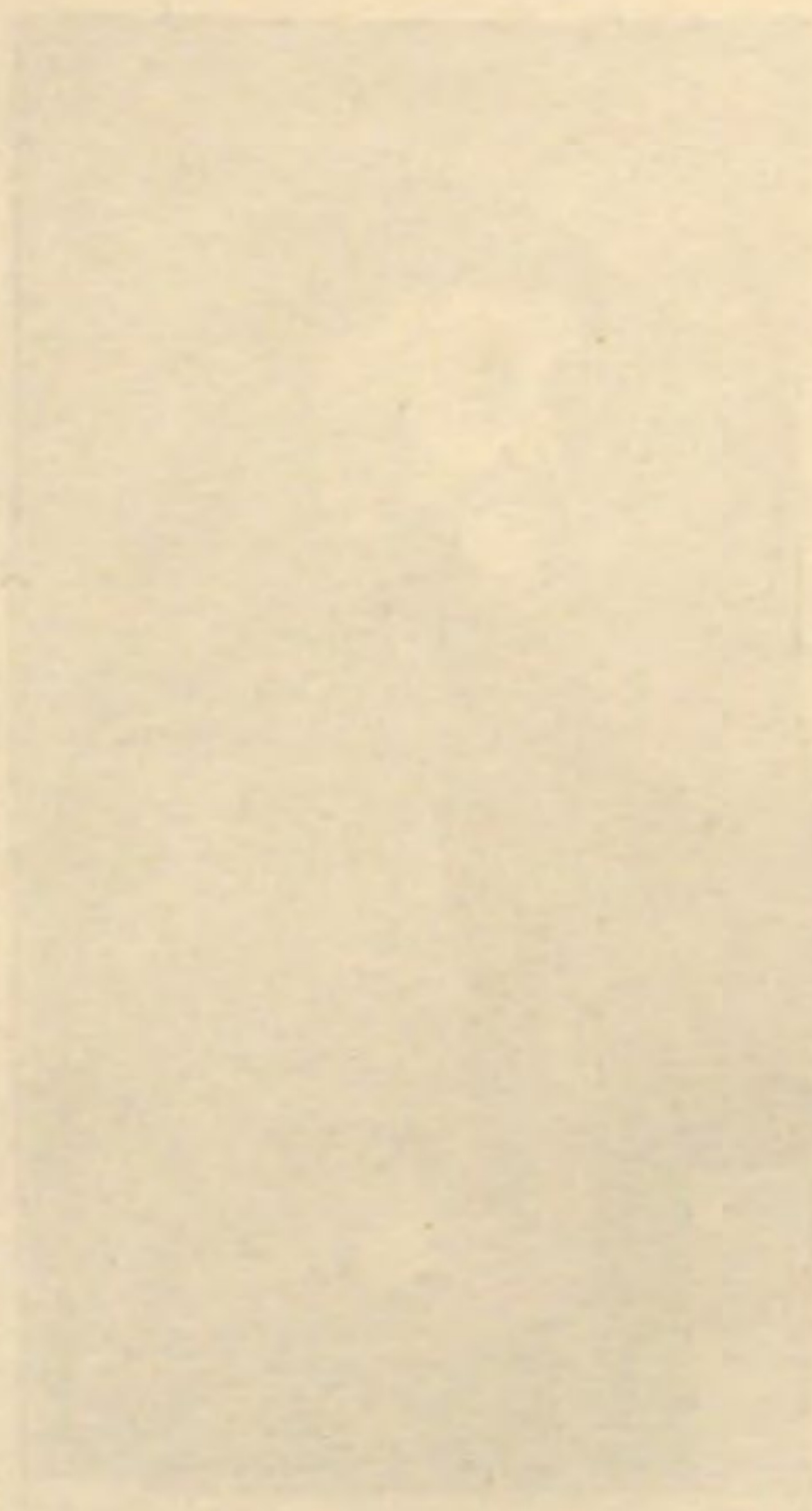
LONDON :
PUBLISHT FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY
BY N. TRÜBNER & CO., 57 & 59, LUDGATE HILL.

—
1868-1879.

THE CHAUCER PRESS

OF THE CHAUCER PRESS

THE CHAUCER PRESS



First Series.

CLAY AND TAYLOR, THE CHAUCER PRESS, BUNGAY.

DEDICATED

TO THE

Earl of Ellesmere,

BY WHOSE KIND LEAVE

THIS ELLESMERE MS IS PRINTED.

Christmas, 1868.

1840

1840

1840

1840

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¹ It has not the Friar lines 252 *b. c.* of the Hengwrt MS.

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¹ Lines 1455-6, 1493-8 of the Franklin's Tale are not found in any other MS. of the Canterbury Tales yet examind by or for me.

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¹ The four 'modern instances'—1. Peter (the Cruel) of Spain, 2. Peter of Cyprus, 3. Barnabo Visconti of Milan, and 4. Ugolino, Count of Pisa—are wrongly put at the end of the Tale, p. 500—503 *El.*, instead of after Zenobia, l. 3564, p. 491 *El.* ; p. 268 *S-T.*

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† The Reader is askt to star (*) the page-numbers 1-26.

B. o. angl. 313 ⁿ (2)
Chaucer Society.

I, 2.8.
16.26

THE
Ellesmere MS

OF
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EDITED BY
FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL.



R. Blind. fec. HARL. MS. 4866.

PART I.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY
BY N. TRÜBNER & CO., 57 & 59, LUDGATE HILL.

MDCCCLXVIII.

[REPRINTED, 1877.]

15

The Chaucer Society.

Editor in Chief:—F. J. FURNIVALL, 3, St George's Sq., Primrose Hill, N.W.

To do honour to CHAUCER, and to let the lovers and students of him see how far the best unprinted Manuscripts of his works differ from the printed texts, this Society is founded. There are many questions of metre, pronunciation, orthography, and etymology yet to be settled, for which more prints of Manuscripts are wanted, and it is hardly too much to say that every line of Chaucer contains points that need reconsideration. The founder's proposal is to begin with *The Canterbury Tales*, and give of them (in parallel columns in Royal 4to) six of the best unprinted Manuscripts known. Inasmuch also as the parallel arrangement will necessitate the alteration of the places of certain tales in some of the MSS, a print of each MS will be issued separately, and will follow the order of its original. The first six MSS to be printed are the Ellesmere (by leave of the Earl of Ellesmere); the Hengwrt (by leave of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq.); the Cambridge Univ. Libr., MS Gg. 4. 27; the Corpus, Oxford; the Petworth (by leave of Lord Leconfield); and the Lansdowne 851 (British Museum).

Of Chaucer's Minor Poems,—the MSS of which are generally later than the best MSS of the *Canterbury Tales*,—all, or nearly all, the MSS will be printed, so as to secure all the existing evidence for the true text.

To secure the fidelity and uniform treatment of the texts, Mr F. J. Furnivall will read all with their MSS.

The Society's publications are issued in two Series, of which the first contains the different texts of Chaucer's works; and the Second, such originals of, and essays on these as can be procured, with other illustrative treatises, and Supplementary Tales.

The Society's issue for 1868, in the **First Series**, is,

- I. The Prologue and Knight's Tale, of the *Canterbury Tales*, in 6 parallel Texts (from the 6 MSS named below), together with Tables, showing the Groups of the Tales, and their varying order in 38 MSS of the Tales, and in 5 old printed editions, and also Specimens from several MSS of the "Moveable Prologues" of the *Canterbury Tales*,—The Shipman's Prologue, and Franklin's Prologue,—when moved from their right places, and of the Substitutes for them. (The Six-Text, Part I.)
 - II. The Prologue and Knight's Tale from the Ellesmere MS.
 - III. " " " " " " " Hengwrt " 154
 - IV. " " " " " " " Cambridge " Gg. 4. 27
 - V. " " " " " " " Corpus " Oxford
 - VI. " " " " " " " Petworth " "
 - VII. " " " " " " " Lansdowne " 851
- (separate issues of the Texts forming Part I of the Six-Text edition.)

The issue for 1869, in the **First Series**, is,

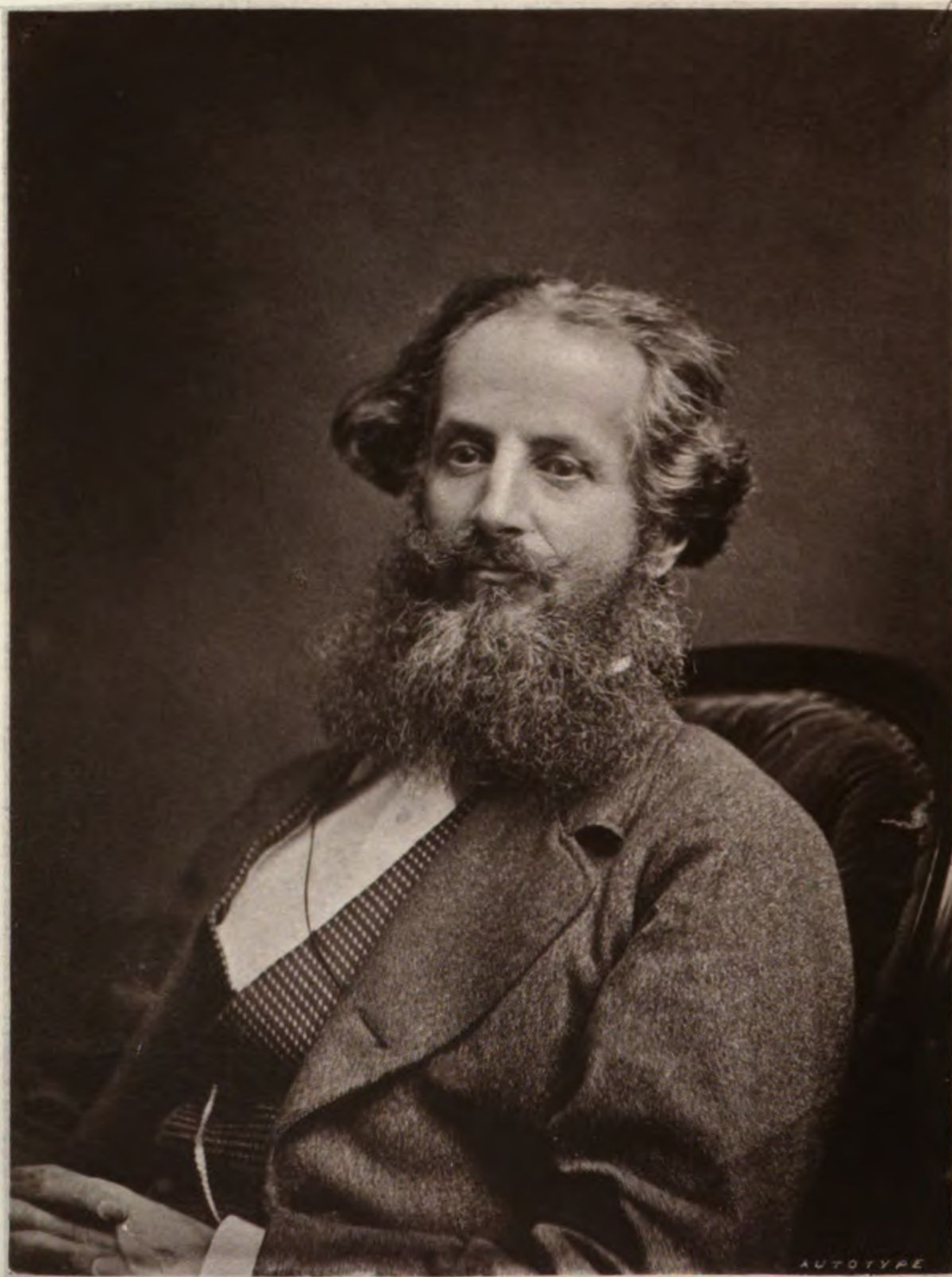
- VIII. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales: Ellesmere MS.
 - IX. " " " " " " " Hengwrt " }
 - X. " " " " " " " Cambridge " } with an
 - XI. " " " " " " " Corpus " } Appendix of
 - XII. " " " " " " " Petworth " } "Gamelyn"
 - XIII. " " " " " " " Lansdowne " } from six MSS.
- (separate issues of the Texts forming the Six-Text, Part II, No. XIV.)

The issue for 1870, in the **First Series**, is,

- XIV. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales, with an Appendix of the Spurious Tale of Gamelyn, in 6 parallel Texts. (Six-Text, Part II.)

The issue for 1871, in the **First Series**, is,

- XV. The Man of Law's, Shipman's, and Prioress's Tales, with Chaucer's own Tale of Sir Thopas, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, and 10 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS.
 - XVI. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Ellesmere MS.
 - XVII. " " " " " " " Cambridge MS.
 - XVIII. " " " " " " " Corpus MS.
 - XIX. The Shipman's, Prioress's, and Man of Law's Tales, from the Petworth MS.
 - XX. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Lansdowne MS.
- (each with woodcuts of fourteen drawings of Tellers of Tales in the Ellesmere MS.)
- XXI. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I:—'The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse,' from Thynne's ed. of 1532, the Fairfax MS 16, and Tanner MS 346; 'the Complaynt to Pite,' 'the Parliament of Foules,' and 'the Complaynt of Mars,' each from six MSS.
 - XXII. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 'The Parliament of Foules,' from three MSS.



Fredk J. Trumbull

Oct. 3, 1876

Born, Feb. 4, 1825



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MDCCCLXVIII.



First Series, II.

JOHN CHILDS AND SON, PRINTERS.

GROUP A. FRAGMENT I.

§ 1. GENERAL PROLOGUE.

ELLESMERE MS.

Here bygynneth the Book of the tales of Caunterbury.

WHan that Aprille with hise shoures soote [leaf 5]
The droghte of March / hath perced to the roote
And bathed euery veyne / in swich licour
Of which vertu / engendred is the flour 4
Whan Zephirus eek / with his swete breeth
Inspired hath / in euery holt and heeth

The tendre croppes / and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram / his half[e] cours yronne ¶ i. sol in Ariete
And smale foweles / maken melodye
That slepen al the nyght / with open eye
So priketh hem nature in hir corages
Thanne longen folk / to goon on pilgrimages 12
And Palmeres / for to seken straunge strondes
To ferne halwes / kowthe in sondry londes
And specially / from euery shires ende
Of Engelond / to Caunturbury they wende 16
The hooly blisful martir for to seke
That hem hath holpen / whan þat they were seeke.

Bifil that / in that seson on a day
In Southwerk / at the Tabard as I lay 20
Redy / to wenden on my pilgrymage
To Caunterbury / with ful deuout corage
At nyght / were come / in to that hostelrye
Wel nyne and twenty in a compaignye 24
Of sondry folk / by aventure y-falle
In felaweshipe / and pilgrimes were they alle
That toward Caunterbury wolden ryde

The chambres and the stables weren wyde 28
 And wel we weren esed atte beste
 And shortly / whan the sonne was to reste
 So hadde I spoken / *with* hem everychon
 That I was / of hir felaweshipe anon 32
 And made forward / erly for to ryse
 To take oure wey / ther as I yow deuyse
But natheles / whil I haue tyme *and* space
 Er that I ferther / in this tale pace 36
 Me thynketh it acordaunt to resoñ
 To telle yow / al the condicioñ
 Of ech of hem / so as it semed me
 And whiche they were / and of what degree 40
 And eek in what array / that they were Inne
 And at a knyght / than wol I first bigynne
A knyght ther was / and that a worthy man ¶ Knyght
 That fro the tyme / that he first bigan 44
 To riden out / he loued chiualrie
 Trouthe and honour / fredom and curteisie
 fful worthy was he / in his lordes werre
 And therto / hadde he riden / no man ferre 48
 As wel in cristendom / as in Hethenesse [leaf 5, back]
 And euere / honoured for his worthynesse
 ¶ At Alisaundre he was / whan it was wonne
 fful ofte tyme / he hadde the bord bigonne 52
 Abouen alle nacions in Pruce
 In Lettow / hadde he reysed and in Ruce
 No cristen man so ofte of his degree
 In Gernade / at the seege eek hadde he be 56
 Of Algezir /. and riden in Belmarye
 At Lyeye was he / and at Satalye
 Whan they were wonne / *and* in the grete See
 At many a noble Armee / hadde he be 60
 At mortal batailles / hadde he been fiftene
 And foughten for oure feith at Tramyssene
 In lystes thries / and ay slayn his foo

This ilke worthy knyght^t hadde been also 64
 Somtyme / with the lord of Palatye
 Agayn / another hethen in Turkye
 And eueremoore / he hadde a souereyn prys
 And though þat he were worthy he was wys 68
 And of his port / as meeke as is a mayde
 He neuere yet / no vileynye ne sayde
 In al his lyf / vn to no maner wight^t
 He was a verray parfit gentil knyght 72
 ¶ But for to tellen yow / of his array
 His hors weren goode / but he was nat gay
 Of ffustian / he wered a gypon
 Al bismotered with his habergeon 76
 ffor he was late / ycome from his viage
 And wente / for to doon his pilgrymage
 With hym ther was his sone a yong^t Squier ¶ Squier 80
 A louyere / and a lusty Bachelor
 With lokkes crulle / as they were leyd in presse
 Of twenty yeer of Age / he was I gesse
 Of his stature / he was of euene lengthe
 And wonderly delyuere / and of greet strengthe 84
 And he hadde been somtyme in chyuachie
 In fflaundres / in Artoys and Pycardie
 And born hym weel / as of so litel space
 In hope / to stonden in his lady grace 88
 Embrouded was he / as it were a meede
 Al ful of fresshe floures / whyte and reede
 Syngynge he was / or floytynge al the day
 He was as fressh / as in the Monthe of May 92
 Short was his gowne / with sleues longe *and* wyde
 Wel koude he sitte on hors and faire ryde
 He koude songes make / *and* wel endite
 Iuste *and* eek daunce / and weel purtreye *and* write 96
 So hote he louede / that by nyghtertale [leaf 6]
 He slepte namoore than dooth a nyghtyngale
 Curteis he was / lowely / and seruysable

And carf / biforn his fader at the table 100

A Yeman hadde he / and seruantz namo ¶ Yeman

At that tyme / for hym liste ride soo

And he was clad / in cote *and* hood of grene

A sheef of pecok arwes / bright and kene 104

Vnder his belt he bar ful thriftily

Wel koude he / dresse his takel yemanly

Hise arwes drouped noght with fetheres lowe

And in his hand / he baar a myghty bowe 108

A not heed hadde he / with a broun visage

Of woodecraft / wel koude he al the vsage

Vp on his arm / he baar a gay bracer

And by his syde / a swerd / and a bokeler/ 112

And on that oother syde / a gay daggere

Harneised wel / and sharpe as point of spere

A Cristophere on his brest of siluer sheene

An horn he bar / the bawdryk was of grene 116

A fforster was he / soothly as I gesse

Ther was also / a Nonne a PRIORESSE ¶ Prioress

That of hir smylyng / was ful symple *and* coy

Hire gretteste ooth / was but by seint Loy 120

And she was cleped / madame Eglentyne

fful weel she soong the seruice dyuyne,

Entuned in hir nose / ful semeely

And frenssh / she spak / ful faire and fetisly 124

After the scole of Stratford atte Bowe

ffor frenssh of Parys / was to hire vnknowe

At mete / wel ytaught was she with alle

She leet no morsel / from hir lippes falle 128

Ne wette hir fynGRES / in hir sauce depe

Wel koude she carie a morsel / and wel kepe

That no drope / ne fille vp on hire brist

In curteisie was set ful muchel hir list/ 132

Hire ouer lippe / wyped she so clene

That in hir coppe / ther was no ferthyng sene

Of grece / whan she dronken hadde hir draughte

fful semely / after hir mete she raughte 136
 And sikerly / she was of greet desport
 And ful plesaunt / and amyable of port
 And peyned hire to countrefete cheere
 Of Court and to been estatlich of manere 140
 And to ben holden digne of reuerence
 But for to speken of hire conscience
 She was so charitable and so pitous
 She wolde wepe / if that she saugh a Mous 144
 Kaught in a trappe / if it were deed or bledde [leaf 6, back]
 Of smale houndes / hadde she þat she fedde
 With rosted flessch / or Milk / and wastel breed
 But soore wepte she / if any of hem were deed 148
 Or if men smoot it / with a yerde smerte
 And al was conscience and tendre herte
 fful semyly / hir wympul pynched was
 Hire nose tretys / hir eyen greye as glas 152
 Hir mouth ful smal / and ther to softe *and* reed
 But sikerly / she hadde a fair forheed
 It was almoost . a spanne brood I trowe
 ffor hardily / she was nat vndergrowe 156
 fful fetys was hir cloke / as I was war
 Of smal coral / aboute hire Arm she bar
 A peire of bedes / gauded al with grene
 And ther on / heng a brooch of gold ful sheene 160
 On which / ther was first write a crowned .A.
 And after / Amor vincit omnia.
 Another Nonne / with hire hadde she ¶ Nonne & .iij. preestes.
 That was hire Chapeleyne and preestes thre 164
 A Monk ther was / a fair for the maistrie ¶ Monk/
 An outridere / that louede venerie
 A manly man / to been an Abbot able
 fful many a deyntee hors / hadde he in stable 168
 And whan he rood / men myghte his brydel heere
 Gynglen / in a whistlynge wynd als cleere
 And eek as loude / as dooth þe Chapel belle

Ther as this lord / was kepere of the Celle 172
 The reule of seint Maure / or of seint Beneit /
 By cause that it was old / and som del streit /
 This ilke Monk / leet olde thynges pace
 And heeld / after the newe world the space 176
 He yaf nat of that text a pulled hen
 That seith / that hunters beth nat hooly men
 Ne that a Monk / whan he is recchelees
 Is likned / til a fissh / þat is waterlees 180
 This is to seyn / a Monk out of his Cloystre
 But thilke text / heeld he nat worth an Oystre
 And I seyde / his opinion was good
 What sholde he studie / *and* make hym seluen wood 184
 Vpon a book / in Cloystre alwey to poure
 Or swynken *with* his handes, and laboure
 As Austyn bit / how shal the world be serued
 Lat Austyn / haue his owene swynk / to him reserued 188
 Therefore / he was a prikasour aright
 Grehoundes he hadde / as swift as fowel in flight
 Of prikyng and of huntynge for the hare
 Was al his lust. for no cost wolde he spare 192
 I seigh his sleues / ypurfiled at the hond [leaf 7]
 With grys / and that the fyneste of a lond
 And for to festne his hood vnder his chyn
 He hadde of gold / ywroght / a ful curious pyn 196
 A loue knotte / in the gretter ende ther was
 His heed was balled / þat shoon as any glas
 And eek his face / as it hadde been enoynt/
 He was a lord ful fat / and in good poynt 200
 Hise eyen stepe / and rollynge in his heed
 That stemed / as a forneys of a leed
 His bootes souple / his hors in greet estaat
 Now *certainly* / he was a fair prelaat 204
 He was nat pale / as a forpyned goost
 A fat swan loued he best of any roost
 His palfrey / was as broun as is a berye

A ffrere ther was / a wantowne *and* a merye, ¶ ffrere
 A lymytour / a ful solempne man 209
 In alle the ordres foure / is noon þat kan
 So muchel of daliaunce / and fair langage
 He hadde maad / ful many a mariage 212
 Of yonge wommen / at his owene cost
 Vn to his ordre / he was a noble post
 And wel biloued / and famulier was he
 With frankeleyns / ouer al in his contree 216
 And [eek] with worthy wommen of the toun
 ffor he hadde power of confessioun
 As seyde hym self / moore than a Curat
 ffor of his ordre / he was licenciat 220
 fful swetely / herde he confessioun
 And plesaunt was his absolucioñ
 He was an esy man / to yeue penaunce
 Ther as he wiste / to haue a good pitaunce 224
 ffor vnto a poure ordre / for to yiue
 Is signe / þat a man is wel yshryue
 ffor if he yaf / he dorste make avaunt
 He wiste / that a man was repentaunt 228
 ffor many a man / so harde is of his herte
 He may nat wepe / al thogh hym soore smerte
 Therefore in stede of wepynge and preyeris
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 And pynnes / for to yeuen yonge wyues
 And certainly / he hadde a murye note
 Wel koude he synge / and pleyen on a rote 236
 Of yeddynges / he baar outrely the pris
 His nekke / whit was / as the flour delys
 Ther to / he strong was as a Champion
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Acorded nat / as by his facultee 244
 To haue with sike lazars Aqueyntaunce
 It is nat honeste / it may nat avaunce
 ffor to deelen / with no swich poraille
 But al with riche / and selleres of vitaille 248
 And ouer al / ther as profit sholde arise
 Curteis he was / and lowely of seruyse
 Ther nas no man / nowher so vertuous
 He was / the beste beggere in his hous 252
 [.
 no gap in the MS.]
 ffor thogh a wydwe / hadde noght a sho
 So plesaunt / was his In principio
 Yet wolde he haue / a ferthyng^r er he wente
 His purchas / was wel bettre than his rente 256
 And rage he koude / as it were right a whelpe
 In loue dayes / ther koude he muchel helpe
 ffor there he was nat lyk a Cloysterer
 With a thredbare cope / as is a poure scoler 260
 But he was lyk / a maister / or a pope
 Of double worstede / was his semycope
 That rounded as a belle / out of the presse
 Somwhat he lipped / for his wantownesse 264
 To make his englyssh / sweete vp on his tonge
 And in his harpyng^r. whan þat he hadde songe
 Hise eyen twynkled in his heed aryght^r
 As doon the sterres / in the frosty nyght^r 268
 This worthy lymytour / was cleped Huberd^r
 A Marchant was ther with a forked berd^r ¶ Marchaunt
 In Motlee and hye on horse he sat^r
 Vp on his heed a fflaundryssh Beuere hat / 272
 His bootes clasped / faire and fetisly
 Hise rescns he spak / ful solempnely
 Sowynge alway thencrees of his wynnyng^r
 He wolde the see were kept^r for any thing^r. 276
 Bitwixe Middelburgh and Orewelle

Wel koude he in eschaunge sheeldes selle
 This worthy man / ful wel his wit bisette
 Ther wiste no wight^t þat he was in dette 280

So estatly / was he of his gouernaunce
 With his bargaynes / and *with* his cheuyssaunce
 ffor sothe / he was a worthy man with alle
 But sooth to seyn / I noot how men hym calle 284

A Clerk ther was / of Oxenford^t also ¶ Clerk of Oxenford^t,
 That vn to logyk^t / hadde longe ygo

And leene was his hors as is a rake
 And he nas nat right fat, I vndertake 288
 But looked holwe / and ther to sobrelly [leaf 8]

fful thredbare / was his ouereste courtepy
 ffor he hadde geten hym yet no benefice
 Ne was so worldly / for to haue office 292

ffor hym was leuere / haue at his beddes heed
 Twenty bookes / clad in blak^t or reed
 Of Aristotle / and his Philosophie

Than robes riche / or fithele / or gay sautrie 296
 But al be / that he was a Philosophre
 Yet hadde he / but litel gold in cofre

But al þat he myghte / of his freendes hente
 On bookes / and his lernynge he it spente 300
 And bisily / gan for the soules preye

Of hem / þat yaf hym wher *with* to scoleye
 Of studie took he moost cure *and* moost heede
 Noght o word / spak he moore than was neede 304

And that was seyð / in forme and reuerence
 And short^t and quyke^t and ful of hy sentence
 Sownynge in moral vertu / was his speche

And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche 308

A Sergeant of the Lawe / war and wys ¶ Sergeant of lawe
 That often hadde been at the Parvys

Ther was also / ful riche of excellence
 Discreet he was / and of greet reuerence 312

He semed swich / hise wordes weren so wise

Iustice he was / ful often in Assise,
 By patente / and by pleyn commissioun
 ffor his science / and for his heigh renoun 316
 Of fees and robes / hadde he many oon
 So greet a purchasour / was nowher noon
 Al was fee symple to hym in effect
 His purchasyng / myghte nat been infect 320
 Nowher / so bisy a man as he ther nas
 And yet he semed / bisier than he was
 In termes hadde he caas and doomes alle
 That from the tyme / of kyng william were yfalle 324
 Ther-to / he koude endite and make a thyng
 Ther koude no wight / pynchen at his writyng
 And euery statut / koude he pleyn by rote
 He rood but hoomly / in a medlee cote 328
 Girt with a ceint of silk / with barres smale
 Of his array telle I no lenger tale.

A ffrankeleyn / was in his compaignye .¶ ffrankeleyn
 Whit was his heed / as is a dayesye 332
 Of his complexion / he was sangwyn
 Wel loued he by the morwe a sope in wyn
 To lyuen in delit was euere his wone
 For he was / Epicurus owene sone 336
 That heeld opinioñ that pleyn delit [leaf 8, back]
 Was verray felicitee parfit
 An housholdere / and that a greet was he
 Seint Iulian was he in his contree 340
 His breed / his Ale / was always after oon
 A bettre envyned man / was neuere noon
 With oute bake mete / was neuere his hous
 Of fissh and flessch / and that so plenteuous 344
 It snwed in his hous / of mete and drynke
 Of alle deyntees / that men koude thynke
 After the sondry sesons / of the yeer
 So chaunged he / his mete and his soper 348
 fful many a fat partrich / hadde he in Muwe

And many a Breem / and many a luce in Stuwe
 Wo was his Cook^t / but if his sauce were
 Poynaunt / and sharpe / and redy al his geere 352
 His table dormant^t in his halle alway
 Stood redy couered / al the longe day
 At session^s ther was he lord and sire
 fful ofte tyme / he was knyght of the shire 356
 An Anlaas / and a gipser al of silk^t
 Heeng at his girdel / whit as morne Milk /
 A shirreue hadde he been and Countour
 Was nowher / such a worthy Vauasour 360
 Aⁿ haberdasshere and a Carpenter
 A Webbe / a Dyere / and a Tapycer
 And they were clothed alle in o lyueree
 Of a solempne / and a greet fraternitee 364
 fful fressh and newe / hir geere apiked was
 Hir knyues / were chaped noght with bras
 But al *with* siluer / wroght ful clene and weel
 Hire girdles and hir pouches euerydeel 368
 Wel semed ech of hem / a fair burgeys
 To sitten in a yeldehalle / on a deys
 Euerich / for the wisdom *pat* he kan
 Was shaply / for to been an Alderman 372
 ffor catel hadde they ynogh and rente
 And eek hir wyues wolde it wel assente
 And elles certeyn / were they to blame
 It is ful fair / to been ycleped ma Dame 376
 And goon to vigilies / al bifore
 And haue a Mantel roialliche ybore
 A Cook they hadde *with* hem for the nones ^{¶ Cook.}
 To boille the chiknes *with* the Marybones 380
 And poudre Marchant^t tart^t and galyngale
 Wel koude he knowe / a draughte of Londoñ ale
 He koude rooste and sethe / and boille and frye
 Maken Mortreux / and wel bake a pye 384
 But greet harm was it / as it thoughte me [leaf 9]

That on his shyne / a mormal hadde he
ffor blankmanger / that made he with the beste

A Shipman was ther / wonynge fer by weste ¶ Shipman
ffor aught I woot / he was of Dertemouthe 389

He rood vp on a Rouncey / as he kouthe

In a gowne of faldyng^t to the knee

A daggere / hangynge on a laas hadde he 392

Aboute his nekke / vnder his Arm adoun

The hoot somer / hadde maad his hewe al broun

And certainly / he was a good felawe

fful many a draughte of wyn / had he [y-]drawe 396

ffro Burdeauxward^t / whil that the Chapman sleepe

Of nyce conscience / took he no keepe

If þat he faught^t and hadde the hyer hond^t

By water / he sente hem hoom to euery lond^t 400

But of his craft / to rekene wel his tydes

His stremes / and his daungers hym bisides

His herberwe / and his moone / his lodemenage

Ther nas noon swich / from Hulle to Cartage 404

Hardy he was and wys / to vndertake

With many a tempest / hadde his berd been shake

He knew alle the hauenes / as they were

ffron Gootlond^t to the Cape of ffynystere 408

And euery cryke / in Britaigne and in Spayne

His Barge / ycleped was the Maudelayne

With vs ther was a Doctour of Phisik ¶ Doctour of Phisik/

In al this world / ne was ther noon hym lik 412

To speke of phisik / and of Surgerye

ffor he was grounded in Astronome

He kepte his pacient^t a ful greet deel

In houres / by his magyk natureel 416

Wel koude he fortunen the Ascendent

Of hise ymages / for his pacient^t

He knew the cause / of euerich maladye

Were it of hoot^t or cold / or moyste / or drye 420

And where they engendred / and of what humour

He was a verray parfit praktisour
 The cause yknowe / and of his harm the roote
 Anon he yaf / the sike man his boote 424
 fful redy hadde he / hise Apothecaries
 To sende him drogges and his letuaries
 ffor ech of hem / made oother for to wyne
 Hir frendshipe / nas nat newe to bigynne 428
 Wel knew he / the olde Esculapius
 And Deyscorides / and eek Risus
 Olde ypocras / Haly / and Galyen
 Serapion Razis / and Auycen 432
 Auerrois / Damascien / and Constantyn [leaf 9, back]
 Bernard / and Gatesden / and Gilbertyn
 Of his diete / mesurable was he
 ffor it was / of no superfluitee 436
 But of greet norissyng / and digestible
 His studie / was but litel on the Bible
 In sangwyn and in pers / he clad was al
 Lyned with Taffata / and with Sendal 440
 And yet he was / but esy of dispence
 He kepte / that he wan in pestilence
 ffor gold in Phisik / is a cordial
 Therefore he louede gold in special 444
 A good wif was ther of biside Bathe ¶ The goode Wif of
 ¶ Bathe
 But she was som del deaf *and* þat was scathe
 Of clooth makynge she hadde swich an haunt
 She passed hem of ypres and of Gaunt 448
 In al the parisshe / wif ne was ther noon
 That to the offrynge / bifore hire sholde goon
 And if ther dide / certeyn so wrooth was she
 That she was / out of alle charitee 452
 Hir couerchiefs / ful fyne weren of ground
 I dorste swere / they weyeden ten pound
 That on a sonday / weren vpon hir heed
 Hir hosen weren / of fyn scarlet reed 456
 fful streite yteyd / and shoes ful moyste *and* newe

Boold was hir face / and fair and reed of hewe
 She was a worthy womman al hir lyue
 Housbondes at chirche dore / she hadde fyue 460
 Withouten oother compaignye in youthe
 But ther of / nedeth nat to speke as nowthe
 And thries / hadde she been at Ierusalem
 She hadde passed / many a straunge strem 464
 At Rome she hadde been and at Boloigne
 In Galice at Seint Iame / and at Coloigne
 She koude muchel / of wandrynge by the weye
 Gat tothed was she / soothly for to seye 468
 Vp on an Amblere / esily she sat
 Ywympled wel / and on hir heed an hat
 As brood / as is a bokeler / or a targe
 A foot mantel / aboute hir hipes large 472
 And on hire feet a paire of spores sharpe
 In felaweshipe / wel koude she laughe *and* carpe
 Of remedies of loue / she knew *per* chaunce
 For she koude of that Art the olde daunce 476
A good man was ther of Religioun
 And was / a poure Person of a toun ¶ Person of a toun.
 But riche he was / of hooly thoght *and* werk/
 He was also / a lerned man a clerk 480
 That cristes gospel / trewely wolde preche [leaf 10]
 Hise parissheens / deuoutly wolde he teche
 Benygne he was / and wonder diligent
 And in Aduersitee ful pacient 484
 And swich / he was [y-]preued ofte sithes
 fful looth were hym / to cursen for hise tithes
 But rather wolde he yeuen out of doute
 Vn to his poure parissheens aboute 488
 Of his offryng and eek of his substaunce
 He koude / in litel thyng haue suffisaunce
 Wyd was his parisshe / and houses fer a sonder
 But he ne lafte nat for reyn ne thonder 492
 In siknesse nor in meschief / to visite

The ferreste in his parisshe mucche and lite
 Vp on his feet and in his hand a staf
 This noble ensample to his sheepe he yaf 496
 That firste he wroghte / and afterward that he taughte
 Out of the gospel / he tho wordes caughte
 And this figure / he added eek ther to
 That if gold ruste / what shal Iren doo 500
 For if a preest be foul / on whom we truste
 No wonder is / a lewed man to ruste
 And shame it is / if [that] a prest take keepe
 A shiten shepherde / and a clene sheepe 504
 Wel oghte a preest / ensample for to yeue
 By his clenness / how þat his sheepe sholde lyue
 He sette nat his benefice to hyre
 And leet his sheepe / encombred in the Myre 508
 And ran to Londoñ / vn to seint Poules
 To seken hym a chauntrie for soules
 Or with a bretherhed / to been withholde
 But dwelleth at hoom and kepeth wel his folde 512
 So that the wolf / ne made it nat myscarie
 He was a shepherde / and noght a Mercenarie
 And though he hooly were / and vertuous
 He was nat to synful man despitous 516
 Ne of his speche / daungerous ne digne
 But in his techyng discreet and benygne
 To drawen folk to heuene by fairnesse
 By good ensample / this was his bisynesse 520
 But it were any persone obstinat
 What so he were / of heigh or lough estat
 Hym wolde he snybben sharply for the nonys
 A bettre preest I trowe / þat nowher noon ys 524
 He waiteth / after no pompe and reuerence
 Ne maked him a spiced conscience
 But cristes loore / and hise Apostles twelue
 He taughte / but first he folwed it hym selue 528
 With hym ther was a Plowman was his brother ^[leaf 10, back] ¶ Plowman.

That hadde ylad of dong^t ful many a fother
 A trewe swynkere / and a good was he
 Lyuyng in pees / and parfit charitee 532
 God loued he best / with al his hoole herte
 At alle tymes / thogh he gamed or smerte
 And thanne his neighebore / right as hym selue
 He wolde thresshe / and ther to dyke and delue 536
 For cristes sake / for euery poure wight
 Withouten hire / if it lay in his myght
 Hise tithes / payde he ful faire and wel
 Bothe of his propre swynk^t and his catel 540
 In a Tabard he rood / vpon a Mere
 Ther was also / a Reue and a Millere ¶ Millere.
 A Somnour / and a Pardoner also
 A Maunciple / and my self ther were namo 544
 ¶ The Millere was a stout carl for the nones
 Ful byg he was / of brawn / and eek of bones
 That proued wel / for ouer al ther he cam
 At wrastlyng / he wolde haue alwey the Ram 548
 He was short sholdred / brood / a thikke knarre
 Ther nas no dore / þat he ne wolde heue of harre
 Or breke it / at a rennyng^t with his heed
 His berd / as any sowe / or fox was reed 552
 And ther to brood / as though it were a spade
 Vp on the cope / right of his nose he hade
 A werte / and ther on stood a toft of herys
 Reed / as the brustles / of a sowes erys 556
 Hise nosethirles / blake were and wyde
 A swerd and a bokeler / bar he by his syde
 His mouth as greet was / as a greet forneys
 He was a Ianglere and a goliardeys 560
 And that was moost^t / of synne and harlotries
 Wel koude he stelen corn / and tollen thries
 And yet he hadde / a thombe of gold pardee
 A whit cote / and a blew hood wered he 564
 A baggepipe / wel koude he blowe and sowne

And ther with al / he broghte vs out of towne

A gentil Maunciple / was ther of a temple ¶ Maunciple.
Of which Achatours / myghte take exemple 568

ffor to be wise / in byynge of vitaille

ffor wheither that he payde / or took by taille

Algate / he wayted so / in his Achaat

That he was ay biforn / and in good staat 572

Now is nat that of god a ful fair grace

That swich a lewed mannes wit shal pace

The wisdom / of an heepe of lerned men

Of maistres hadde he / mo than thries ten 576

That weren of lawe / expert and curious [leaf 11]

Of whiche / þer weren a duszeyne in that hous

Worthy to been stywardes / of rente and lond

Of any lord / that is in Engeland 580

To maken hym lyue / by his propre good

In honour dettelees / but if he were wood

Or lyue as scarsly / as hym list desire

And able / for to helpen al a shire 584

In any caas / þat myghte falle or happe

And yet this manciple / sette hir aller cappe

The Reue was / a sclendre colerik man ¶ Reue.

His berd was shaue / as ny as euer he kan 588

His heer was by his erys / ful round yshorn

His tope was doked / lyk a preest biforn

fful longe were his legges / and ful lene

lyk a staf / ther was no calf ysene 592

Wel koude he kepe a gerner / and a bynne

Ther was noon Auditour / koude of him wyne

Wel wiste he / by the droghte / and by the reyn

The yeldynge / of his seed / and of his greyn 596

His lordes sheepe / his neet his dayerye

His swyn / his hors / his stoor / and his pultrye

Was hoolly / in this Reues gouernynge /

And by his couenant yaf the rekenynge 600

Syn that his lord / was twenty yeer of age

Ther koude no man / brynge hym in Arrerage
 Ther nas baillif ne hierde / nor oother hyne
 That he [ne] knew his sleighte and his couyne 604
 They were adrad of hym / as of the deeth
 His wonyng^t was ful faire vp on an heeth
 With grene trees / shadwed was his place
 He koude better than his lord purchace 608
 fful riche he was astored pryuely
 His lord / wel koude he plesen subtilly
 To yeue and lene hym / of his owene good
 And haue a thank / yet a gowne and hood 612
 In youthe he hadde lerned a good myster
 He was a wel good wrighte a Carpenter
 This Reue sat^t vp on a ful good stot^t
 That was al pomely grey / and highte Scot^t 616
 A long surcote of pers / vp on he hade
 And by his syde / he baar a rusty blade
 Of Northfolk^t was this Reue / of which I telle
 Biside a toun / men clepen Baldeswelle 620
 Tukked he was / as is a frere aboute
 And euere he rood / the hyndreste of oure route
 A Somonour was ther with vs in that place ¶ Somonour.
 That hadde / a fyr reed Cherubynnes face 624
 ffor sawcefleem he was with eyen narwe [leaf 11, back]
 As hoot he was / and lecherous as a sparwe
 With scaled browes blake and piled berd^t
 Of his visage / children were aferd^t 628
 Ther nas quyke siluer / lytarge ne brymston
 Boras / Ceruce / ne oille of Tartre noon
 Ne oynement^t that wolde clense and byte
 That hym myghte helpen / of the welkes white 632
 Nor of the knobbes / sittynge on his chekes
 Wel loued he garleek / oynons / and eek lekes
 And for to drynken strong wyn / reed as blood
 Thanne wolde he speke / and crie as he were wood 636
 And whan þat he / wel dronken hadde the wyn

Than wolde he speke no word but latyn
 A fewe termes hadde he / two or thre
 That he had lerned / out of som decree 640
 No wonder is / he herde it al the day
 And eek ye knowen wel / how þat a Iay
 Kan clepen watte / as wel as kan the pope
 But who so koude in oother thyng^t hym grope 644
 Thanne hadde he spent^t al his Philosophie
 Ay questio quid iuris / wolde he crie
 He was / a gentil harlot^t and a kynde
 A better felawe / sholde men noght fynde 648
 He wolde suffre / for a quart of wyn
 A good felawe / to haue his concubyn
 A twelf monthe / and excuse hym atte fulle
 And priuely / a fynch eek koude he pulle 652
 And if he foond owher / a good felawe
 He wolde techen him / to have noon Awe
 In swich caas / of the Ercedekenes curs
 But^t if a mannes soule / were in his purs 656
 ffor in his purs / he sholde ypunysshed be
 Purs / is the Ercedekenes helle seyde he
 But wel I woot / he lyed right in dede
 Of cursyng^t oghte ech gilty man [to] drede 660
 ffor curs wol slee / right as assoillyng^t sauith
 And also / war him of a Significauit/
 In daunger hadde he / at his owene gise
 The yonge girles / of the diocise 664
 And knew hir conseil / and was al hir reed
 A gerland^t / hadde he set vp on his heed
 As greet / as it were for an Ale stake
 A bokeleer / hadde he maad him of a Cake 668
 With hym ther was / a gentil Pardoner ¶ Pardoner.
 Of Rounciuale / his freend and his compeer
 That streight was comen / fro the court of Rome.
 fful loude he soong^t com hider loue to me 672
 This Somonour / bar to hym a stif burdoun [leaf 12]

Was neuere trompe / of half so greet a soun
 This Pardoner hadde heer / as yelow as wex
 But smothe it heeng^t as dooth a strike of flex 676
 By ounces / henge hise lokkes þat he hadde
 And ther with / he hise shuldres ouerspradde
 But thynne it lay / by colpons oon and oon
 But hood for Iolitee / wered he noon 680
 For it was trussed / vp in his walet^t
 Hym thoughte / he rood / al of the newe Iet^t
 Discheuelee saue his cappe / he rood al bare
 Swiche glarynge eyen hadde he as an hare 684
 A vernycle hadde he sowed / vp on his cappe
 His walet^t [lay] biforn hym / in his lappe
 Bret ful of pardoñ / comen from Rome al hoot/
 A voys he hadde / as smal as hath a goot/ 688
 No berd hadde he / ne neuere sholde haue
 As smothe it was / as it were late shaue
 I trowe / he were a geldyng or a mare
 But of his craft^t fro Berwyk^t in to Ware 692
 Ne was ther / swich another Pardoner
 ffor in his male / he hadde a pilwe beer
 Which þat he seyde / was oure lady veyl
 He seyde he hadde / a gobet^t of the seyl 696
 That seint Peter hadde / whan þat he wente
 Vp on the see / til Ihesu crist hym hente
 He hadde a croys of latoñ / ful of stones
 And in a glas / he hadde pigges bones 700
 But with thise relikes / whan þat he fond^t
 A poure person / dwellynge vp on lond^t
 Vp on a day / he gat hym moore moneye
 Than þat the person gat / in Monthes tweye 704
 And thus / with feyned flaterye and Iapes
 He made the person and the peple his Apes
 But trewely / to tellen atte laste
 He was in chirche a noble ecclesiaste 708
 Wel koude he rede / a lesson or a storie

But alderbest / he song an Offertorie
 ffor wel he wiste / whan þat song was songe
 He moste preche / and wel affile his tonge 712
 To wynne siluer / as he ful wel koude
 Therefore he song / the murierly and loude
 Now haue I toold you shortly in a clause
 The staat^t tharray / the nombre *and* eek the cause 716
 Why þat assembled was this compaignye
 In Southwerk / at* this gentil hostelrye [* MS. as]
 That highte the Tabard / faste by the belle
 But now is tyme / to yow for to telle 720
 How that we baren vs that ilke nyght [leaf 12, back]
 Whan we were / in that hostelrie alyght
 And after wol I telle / of our viage
 And al the remenaunt of oure pilgrimage 724
 But first I pray yow / of youre curteisye
 That ye narette it nat my vileynye
 Thogh þat I pleylnly speke in this mateere
 To telle yow / hir wordes and hir cheere 728
 Ne thogh I speke hir wordes proprely
 ffor this ye knowen / al so wel as I
 Who so shal telle a tale / after a man
 He moote reherce / as ny as euere he kan 732
 Euerich a word / if it be in his charge
 Al speke he / neuer so rudeliche or large
 Or ellis / he moot telle his tale vntrewe
 Or feyne thyng^t. or fynde wordes newe 736
 He may nat spare / al thogh he were his brother
 He moot as wel / seye o word as another
 Crist^t spak hym self / ful brode in hooly writ^t
 And wel ye woot^t no vileynye is it 740
 Eek Plato seith / who so kan hym rede
 The wordes / moote be cosyn to the dede
 Also I prey yow / to foryeue it me
 Al haue I nat set folk in hir degree 744
 Heere in this tale / as þat they sholde stonde

My wit is short^t ye may wel vnderstonde
 ¶ Greet chiere made oure hoost vs euerichon
 And to the soper / sette he vs anon 748
 And serued vs / with vitaille at the beste
 Strong was the wyn / and wel to drynke vs leste
 A semely man / oure hoost was with alle
 ffor to been / a Marchal in an halle 752
 A large man he was / with eyen stepe
 A fairer Burgeys / was ther noon in Chepe
 Boold of his speche / and wys and well ytaught^t
 And of manhod / hym lakked[e] right naught^t 756
 Eek therto / he was right a myrie man
 And after soper / pleyen he bigan
 And spak of myrthe / amonges othere thynges
 Whan that we / hadde maad our rekenynges 760
 And seyde thus / now lordynges trewely
 Ye been to me / right welcome hertely
 ffor by my trouthe / if that I shal nat lye
 I saugh nat this yeer / so myrie a compaignye 764
 Atones in this herberwe as is now
 ffayn wolde I doon yow myrthe / wiste I how
 And of a myrthe / I am right now bythoght^t
 To doon yow ese / and it shal coste noght^t 768
 ¶ Ye goon to Caunterbury / god yow speede [leaf 13]
 The blisful martir / quite yow youre meede
 And wel I woot / as ye goon by the weye
 Ye shapen yow / to talen and to pleye 772
 ffor trewely / confort^t ne myrthe is noon
 To ride by the weye doumb as the stoon
 And therefore / wol I maken yow disport^t
 As I seyde erst^t and doon yow som confort^t 776
 And if yow liketh alle / by oon assent^t
 ffor to stonden / at my Iuggement^t
 And for to werken / as I shal yow seye
 To morwe / whan ye riden by the weye 780
 Now by my fader soule that is deed^t

But if ye be myrie / I wol yeue yow myn heed
 ¶ Hoold vp youre hond withouten moore speche
 Oure conseil / was nat longe for to seche 784
 Vs thoughte / it was noght worth / to make it wys
 And graunted hym / wit outen moore auys
 And bad him seye his voirdit as hym leste
 ¶ Lordynges quod he / now herkneth for the beste 788
 But taak it nought / I prey yow in desdeyn
 This is the poynt to speken short and pleyn
 That ech of yow / to shorte with oure weye
 In this viage / shal telle tales tweye 792
 To Caunterburyward / I mene it so
 And homward / he shal tellen othere two
 Of auentures / that whilom han bifalle
 And which of yow / that bereth hym best of alle 796
 That is to seyn / that telleth in this caas
 Tales of best sentence / and moost solaas
 Shal haue a soper / at oure aller cost
 Heere in this place / sittynge by this post 800
 Whan that we come agayn fro Caunterbury
 And for to make yow / the moore mury
 I wol my self / goodly with yow ryde
 Right at myn owene cost and be youre gyde 804
 And who so wole / my Iuggement withseye
 Shal paye / al that we spenden by the weye
 And if ye vouche sauf / that it be so
 Tel me anon / with outen wordes mo 808
 And I wol erly / shape me therfore
 ¶ This thyng was graunted and oure othes swore
 With ful glad herte / and preyden hym also
 That he would vouche sauf / for to do so 812
 And that he / wolde been oure gouernour
 And of our tales / Iuge and Reportour
 And sette a soper / at a certeyn pris
 And we / wol reuled been at his deuys 816
 ¶ In heigh and lough / and thus by oon assent [leaf 13, back]

We been acorded / to his Iuggement^t
 And ther vp on / the wyn was fet anon
 We dronken / and to reste wente echon 820
 With outen / any lenger taryynge
 Amorwe / whan þat day / gan for to sprynge
 Vp roos oure hoost^t and was oure aller cok^t
 And gadrede vs togidre / alle in a flok^t 824
 And forth we riden / a litel moore than paas
 Vn to the wateryng^t of Seint Thomas
 And there oure hoost^t bigan his hors areste
 And seyde lordynges / herkneth if yow leste 828
 ¶ Ye woot youre foreward / and [I] it yow recorde
 If euen song / and morwe song accorde
 Lat se now / who shal telle the firste tale
 As euere mote I drynke / wyn or ale 832
 Who so be / rebel to my Iuggement^t
 Shal paye / for al þat by the wey is spent^t
 Now draweth cut^t er þat we ferrer twynne
 He / which þat hath the shorteste shal bigynne 836
 Sire knyght quod he / my mayster and my lord^t
 Now draweth cut / for that is myn accord^t
 Cometh neer quod he / my lady Prioressse
 And ye sire clerk / lat be your shamefastnesse 840
 Ne studieth noght / ley hond to euery man
 Anon to drawen / euery wight bigan
 And shortly / for to tellen as it was
 Were it by auenture / or sort^t or cas 844
 The sothe is this / the cut fil to the knyght^t
 Of which / ful blithe and glad was every wyght^t
 And telle he moste his tale / as was resoñ
 By foreward / and by composicioñ 848
 As ye han herd / what nedeth wordes mo
 An whan this goode man / saugh þat it was so
 As he / that wys was and obedient^t
 To kepe his foreward / by his free assent^t 852
 He seyde / syn I shal bigynne the game

What welcome be the cut / a goddes name
Now lat us ryde / and herkneth what I seye
And with that word / we ryden forth oure weye 856
And he bigan / with right a myrie cheere
His tale anon / and seyde in this manere

Iamque domos patrias Sithice post aspera [leaf 14]
gentis presia laurigero &c.

¶ Heere bigynneth the knyghtes tale

WHilom / as olde stories / tellen vs [Painting of the
Knight in the
margin.]
Ther was a duc pat highte Theseus
Of Atthenes / he was lord and gouernour 861
And in his tyme swich a Conquerour,
That gretter / was ther noon vnder the Sonne
fful many a riche contree hadde he wonne 864

That with his wysdom / and his chiualrie
He conquered / al the regne of ffemenye
That whilom / was ycleped Scithia
And wedded[e] the queene ypolita 868
And broghte hire hoom with hym in his contree
With muchel glorie / and greet solempnytee
And eek hir faire suster Emelye
And thus / with victorie and with melodye 872
Lete I this noble duc / to Atthenes ryde
And al his hoost in Armes hym bisyde
¶ And certes / if it nere / to long to heere
I wolde yow haue toold / fully the manere 876
How wonnen was the regne of ffemenye
By Theseus / and by his chiualrye
And of the grete bataille for the nones
Bitwixen Atthenes and Amazones 880
And how asseged was ypolita
The faire hardy queene of Scithia
And of the feste / pat was at hir weddyng
And of the tempest / at hir hoom comyng 884
But al that thyng I moot as now forbere
I haue god woot / a large feeld to ere
And wayke been / the Oxen in my Plough
The remenant of the tale / is long ynough 888
I wol nat letten eek noon of this route

Lat euery felawe / telle his tale aboute
 And lat se now / who shal the soper wyne
 And ther I lefte / I wol ayeyn bigynne 892
 ¶ This duc / of whom I make mencion ¶ Narratio
 ¶ Whan he was come / almoost vn to the toun
 In al his wele / and in his mooste pride
 He was war / as he caste his eye aside 896
 Where that ther kneled in the weye
 A compaignye of ladyes / tweye and tweye
 Ech after oother / clad in clothes blake [leaf 14, back]
 But swich a cry / and swich a wo they make 900
 That in this world / nys creature lyuyng
 That herde / swich another waymentyng
 And of this cry / they nolde neuere stenten
 Til they / the reynes of his brydel henten 904
 ¶ What folk been ye / that at myn hom comyng
 Perturben so my feste / with cryng
 Quod Theseus / haue ye so greet enuye
 Of myn honour / þat thus compleyne and crye 908
 Or who hath yow / mysboden or offended
 And telleth me / if it may been amended
 And why / þat ye been / clothed thus in blak
 ¶ The eldeste lady of hem alle spak 912
 Whan she hadde swowned / with a deedly cheere
 That it was routhe / for to seen and heere
 And seyde lord / to whom ffortune hath yeuen
 Victorie / and as a Conqueror to lyuen 916
 Nat greueth vs / youre glorie and youre honour
 But we / biseken mercy and socour
 Haue mercy on oure wo / and oure distresse
 Som drope of pitee / thurgh thy gentillesse 920
 Vp on vs wrecched women / lat thou falle
 ffor certes lord / ther is noon of vs alle
 That she ne hath been / a duchesse / or a queene
 Now be we caytyues / as it is wel seene 924
 Thanked be ffortune / and hire false wheel

That noon estat^r assureth to be weel
 And certes lord / to abyden youre presence
 Heere in the temple / of the goddesse clemence 928
 We han ben waitynge / al this fourtenyght^r
 Now help vs lord / sith it is in thy myght^r
 ¶ I wrecche / which þat wepe and crie thus
 Was whilom wyf / to kyng Cappaneus 932
 That starf at Thebes / cursed be that day
 And alle we that been in this array
 And maken / al this lamentacioun
 We losten / alle oure housbondes at that toun 936
 Whil that the seege / ther aboute lay
 And yet now the olde Creon weylaway
 That lord is now / of Thebes the Citee
 ffuld of Ire / and of Iniquitee 940
 He for despit^r and for his tirannye
 To do the dede bodyes vileynye
 Of alle oure lordes / whiche that been slawe
 He hath alle the bodyes / on an heepe ydrawe 944
 And wol nat suffren hem / by noon assent^r
 Neither to been yburyed nor ybrent^r
 But maketh houndes / ete hem in despit^r [leaf 15]
 And with that word / with outen moore respit^r 948
 They fillen gruf / and criden pitously
 Haue on vs wrecched wommen som mercy
 And lat oure sorwe / synken in thyn herte
 ¶ This gentil duc^r doun from his courser sterte 952
 With herte pitous / whan he herde hem speke
 Hym thoughte / þat his herte wolde breke
 Whan he saugh hem / so pitous and so maat^r
 That whilom weren / of so greet estaat^r 956
 And in his Armes / he hem alle vp hente
 And hem conforteth / in ful good entente
 And swoor his ooth / as he was trewe knyght^r
 He wolde doon / so ferforthly his myght^r 960
 Vp on the tiraunt Creon / hem to wreke

That all the peple of Grece / sholde speke
 How Creon / was of Theseus yserued
 As he þat hadde / his deeth ful wel deserued 964
 And right anoon / *with* outen moore abood
 His Baner he displayeth and forth rood
 To Thebesward / and al his hoost biside
 No neer Atthenes / wolde he go ne ride 968
 Ne take his ese / fully half a day
 But onward on his wey / that nyght he lay
 And sente anon / ypolita the queene
 And Emelye / hir yonge suster sheene 972
 Vn to the toun of Atthenes to dwelle
 And forth he rit ther is namoore to telle
 The rede statue of Mars / *with* spere and targe
 So shyneth / in his white baner large 976
 That alle the feeldes / glyteren vp and down
 And by his Baner / born is his penoun
 Of gold ful riche / in which ther was ybete
 The Mynotaur / which þat he slough in Crete 980
 ¶ Thus rit this duc thus rit this Conquerour
 And in his hoost of Chiualrie the flour
 Til þat he cam to Thebes and alighte
 ffaire in a feeld / ther as he thoughte fighte 984
 But shortly / for to speken of this thyng
 With Creon / which þat was of Thebes kyng
 He faught / and slough hym manly as a knyght
 In pleyn bataille / and putte the folk to flyght 988
 And by assaut he wan the Citee after
 And rente adoun / bothe wafl and sparre *and* rafter
 And to the ladyes / he restored agayn
 The bones / of hir housbondes that weren slayn 992
 To doon obsequies / as was tho the gyse
 But it were al to longe / for to deuyse
 The grete clamour / and the waymentynge [leaf 15, back]
 That the ladyes made / at the brennynge 996
 Of the bodies / and the grete honour

That Theseus / the noble Conquerour
 Dooth to the ladyes / whan they from hym wente
 But shortly for to telle / is myn entente 1000
 ¶ Whan þat this worthy duc this Theseus
 Hath Creon slayn / and wonne Thebes thus
 Stille in that feeld / he took al nyght his reste
 And dide with al the contree / as hym leste 1004
 ¶ To ransake in the taas / of the bodyes dede
 Hem for to strepe / of harneys and of wede
 The pilours / diden bisynesse and cure
 After the bataille and disconfiture 1008
 And so bifel / þat in the taas they founde
 Thurgh girt with many a greuous bloody wounde
 Two yonge knyghtes / liggyng by and by
 Bothe in oon Armes / wroght ful richely 1012
 Of whiche two / Arcita highte that oon
 And that oother knyght / highte Palamon
 Nat fully quyke / ne fully dede they were
 But by here Cote Armures / and by hir gere 1016
 The heraudes / knewe hem best in special
 As they þat weren / of the blood roial
 Of Thebes / and of sustren two yborn
 Out of the taas / the pilours han hem torn 1020
 And han hem caried / softe vn to the tente
 Of Theseus / and ful soone he hem sente
 To Atthenes / to dwellen in prison
 Perpetuely / he nolde no raunson 1024
 And whan this worthy duc hath thus ydon
 He took his hoost and hoom he rood anon
 With laurer crowned / as a Conquerour
 And ther he lyueth / in ioye and in honour 1028
 Terme of [his] lyue / what nedeth wordes mo
 And in a tour / in angwiss and in wo
 This Palamon / and his felawe Arcite
 ffor eueremoore / ther may no gold hem quite 1032
 ¶ This passeth / yeer by yeer / and day by day

Till it fil ones / in a morwe of May
 That Emelye / þat fairer was to sene
 Than is the lylie / vpon his stalke grene 1036
 And fressher than the May / with floures newe
 ffor with the Rose colour stroof hire hewe
 I noot^t which was the fyner of hem two
 Er it were day / as was hir wone to do 1040
 She was arisen / and al redy dight^t
 ffor May wole haue / no slogardrie a nyght^t
 The sesoñ / priketh / euery gentil herte [leaf 16]
 And maketh hym / out of his slepe to sterte 1044
 And seith arys / and do thyn obseruañce
 This maked Emelye / haue remembrañce
 To doon honour to May / and for to ryse
 Yclothed was she / fressh for to deuyse 1048
 Hir yelow heer / was broyded in a tresse
 Bihynde hir bak / a yerde long I gesse
 And in the gardyn / at the sonne vp riste
 She walketh vp and doun / and as hire liste 1052
 She gadereth floures party / white and rede
 To make a subtil gerland^t for hire hede
 And as an Aungel / heuenysshly she soong^t
 The grete tour / þat was so thikke and stroong^t 1056
 Which of the Castel / was the chief dongeoñ
 Ther as the knyghtes / weren in prisoñ
 Of whiche I tolde yow / and tellen shal
 Was euene ioynant^t to the gardyn wal 1060
 Ther as this Emelye / hadde hir pleyynge
 Bright was the sonne / and cleer that morwenynge
 And this Palamoñ / this woful prisoner
 As was his wone / bi leue of his gayler 1064
 Was risen / and romed / in a chambre an heigh
 In which / he al the noble Citee seigh
 And eek the gardyn / ful of braunches grene
 Ther as this fresshe Emelye the sheene 1068
 Was in hire walk^t and romed vp and doun

This sorweful prisoner / this Palamoun
 Goth in the chambre / romynge to and fro
 And to hym self / compleynynge of his wo 1072
 That he was born / ful ofte he seyde alas
 And so bifel / by auenture or cas
 That thurgh a wyndow / thikke of many a barre
 Of Iren / greet and square as any sparre 1076
 He cast his eye / vpon Emelya
 And ther with al he bleynte and cride .A.
 As though he stongen were vn to the herte
 And with that cry / Arcite anon vp sterte 1080
 And seyde cosyn myn / what eyleth thee
 That art so pale / and deedly on to see
 Why cridestow / who hath thee doon offence
 ffor goddes love / taak al in pacience 1084
 Oure prisoñ / for it may noon oother be
 Fortune / hath yeuen vs this Aduersitee
 Som wikke aspect / or disposicioñ
 Of Saturne / by sum constellacioñ 1088
 Hath yeuen vs this / al though we hadde it sworn
 So stood the heuene / whan þat we were born
 We moste endure / this is the short and playn [leaf 16, back
 ¶ This Palamon answerde / and seyde agayn 1092
 Cosyn for sothe / of this opinioñ
 Thow hast a veyn ymaginacioñ
 This prison caused me nat for to crye
 But I was hurt right now thurgh out myn eye 1096
 In to myn herte / that wol my bane be
 The fairnesse / of that lady þat I see
 Yond in the gardyn / romen to and fro
 Is cause / of al my cryng and my wo 1100
 I noot wher she be / womman or goddesse
 But Venus is it / soothly as I gesse
 And ther with al / on knees down he fil
 And seyde Venus / if it be thy wil 1104
 Yow in this gardyn / thus to transfigure

Bifore me / sorweful wrecche creature
 Out of this prisoñ / helpe þat we may scapen
 And if so be / my destynnee be shapen 1108
 By eterne word / to dyen in prisoñ
 Of oure lynage / haue som compassion
 That is so lowe ybroght by tyrannye
 And with that word / Arcite gan espye 1112
 Wher as this lady / romed to and fro
 And with that sighte / hir beautee hurte hym so
 That if that Palamon / [was] wounded sore
 Arcite is hurt as moche as he / or moore 1116
 And with a sigh / he seyde pitously
 The fresshe beautee / sleeth me sodeynly
 Of hire / that rometh / in the yonder place
 And but I haue / hir mercy and hir grace 1120
 That I may seen hire / atte leeste weye
 I nam but deed / ther is namoore to seye
 ¶ This Palamon / whan he tho wordes herde
 Dispitously / he looked and answerde 1124
 Wheither seistow this / in ernest or in pley ?
 ¶ Nay quod Arcite / in ernest by my fey
 God helpe me so / me list ful yuele pleyo
 ¶ This Palamon / gan knytte his browes tweye 1128
 It nere quod he to thee / no greet honour
 ffor to be fals / ne for to be traitour
 To me / þat am thy cosyn and thy brother
 Ysworn ful depe / and ech of vs til oother 1132
 That neuere for to dyen in the peyne
 Til þat deeth / departe shal vs tweyne
 Neither of vs / in loue to hyndre oother
 Ne in noon oother cas / my leue brother 1136
 But þat thou sholdest trewely forthren me
 In euery cas / as I shal forthren thee
 This was thyn ooth / and myn also certeyn [leaf 17]
 I woot right wel / thou darst it nat withseyn 1140
 Thus artow of my conseil out of doute

And now / thow woldest falsly been aboute
 To loue my lady / whom I loue and serue
 And euere shal / til þat myn herte sterue 1144
 Nay certes false Arcite / thow shalt nat so
 I loued hire first / and tolde thee my wo
 As to my conseil / and to my brother sworn
 To forthre me / as I haue toold biforn 1148
 ffor which / thou art ybounden as a knyght
 To helpen me / if it lay in thy myght
 Or elles artow fals / I dar wel seyn
 ¶ This Arcite / ful proudly spak ageyn 1152
 Thow shalt quod he / be rather fals than I
 And thou art fals / I telle thee outrely
 ffor paramour I loued hire first er thow
 What wiltow seyn / thou wistest nat yet now 1156
 Wheither she be / a womman or goddesse
 Thyn is / affeccioñ of hoolynesse
 And myn is loue / as to a creature
 ffor which / I tolde thee myn auenture 1160
 As to my cosyn / and my brother sworn
 I pose / that thow louedest hire biforn
 Wostow nat wel / the olde clerkes sawe
 That / who shal yeue a louere any lawe ¶ Quis legem det amantibus.
 Loue is a gretter lawe / by my pan
 Than may be yeue / of any erthely man
 And therefore / positif lawe and swich decree
 Is broken al day for loue in ech degree 1168
 A man moot nedes loue / maugree his heed
 He may nat flee it thogh he sholde be deed
 Al be she mayde / or wydwe / or elles wyf
 And eek it is nat likly al thy lyf 1172
 To stonden in hir grace / namoore shal I
 ffor wel thou woost thy seluen verrailly
 That thou and I / be dampned to prison
 Perpetuely / vs gayneth no raunsoñ 1176
 We stryuen / as dide / the houndes for the boon

They foughte al day / and yet hir part was noon
 Ther cam a kyte / whil they weren so wrothe
 And baar away the boon / bitwixe hem bothe 1180
 And therefore / at the kynges court my brother
 Ech man for hym self / ther is noon oother
 Loue if thee list for I loue and ay shal
 And soothly / leue brother this is al 1184
 Heere in this prisoñ / moote we endure
 And euerich of vs / take his auenture
 Greet was the strif / and long / bitwix hem tweye (lf 17, back)
 G If that I hadde / leyser for to seye 1188
 But to theeffect / it happed on a day
 To telle it yow / as shortly as I may
 A worthy duc that highte Perotheus
 That felawe was / to duc Theseus 1192
 Syn thilke day / that they were children lite
 Was come to Atthenes / his felawe to visite
 And for to pleye / as he was won[t] to do
 ffor in this world / he loued no man so 1196
 And he loued hym / als tendrely agayn
 So wel they louede / as olde bookes sayn
 That whan þat oon was deed / soothly to telle
 His felawe wente / and soughte hym doun in helle 1200
 But of that storie / list me nat to write
 Duc Perotheus / loued wel Arcite
 And hadde hym knowe at Thebes yeer by yere
 And finally / at requeste and preyere 1204
 Of Perotheus / with outen any raunsoñ
 Duc Theseus / hym leet out of prisoñ
 ffrely to goon / wher þat hym liste ouer al
 In swich a gyse / as I you tellen shal 1208
 ¶ This was the forward / pleyedly for tendite
 Bitwixen Theseus / and hym Arcite
 That if so were / þat Arcite were yfounde
 Euere in his lif / by day / or nyght or stounde 1212
 In any contree / of this Theseus

And he were caught it was acorded thus
 That with a swerd / he sholde lese his heed
 Ther nas / noon oother remedie ne reed 1216
 But taketh his leue / and homward he him spedde
 Lat hym be war / his nekke lith to wedde
 ¶ How greet a sorwe / suffreth now Arcite
 The deeth he feeleth / thurgh his herte smyte 1220
 He wepeth / wayleth / crieth pitously
 To sleen hym self / he waiteth priuely
 He seyde alas / that day þat he was born
 Now is my prisoñ / worse than biforn 1224
 Now is me shape / eternally to dwelle
 Nat in my purgatorie / but in helle
 Allas / þat euere knew I Perotheus
 ffor elles / hadde I. dwelled with Theseus 1228
 Yfetered in his prisoñ eueremo
 Thanne hadde I been in blisse *and* nat in wo
 Oonly / the sighte of hire / whom þat I serue
 Though þat I neuere / hir grace may deserue 1232
 Wolde han suffised / right ynough for me
 O deere cosyn / Palamon quod he
 Thyn is the victorie / of this auenture [leaf 18]
 fful blisfully in prison maistow dure 1236
 In prison ? certes nay / but in Paradys
 Wel hath ffortune / y-turned thee the dys
 That hast the sighte of hire / and I thabsence
 ffor possible is / syn thou hast hire presence 1240
 And art a knyght a worthy and an able
 That som cas / syn ffortune is chaungeable
 Thow maist to thy desir / som tyme atteyne
 But I / þat am exiled and bareyne 1244
 Of alle grace / and in so greet dispeir
 That ther nys erthe / water / fir / ne eir
 Ne creature / þat of hem maked is
 That may me heele / or doon confort in this 1248
 Wel oughte I sterue / in wanhope and distresse

farwel / my lif / my lust and my gladnesse
 ¶ Allas / why pleynten folk so in commune
 Of purueaunce of god / or of ffortune 1252
 That yeueth hem ful ofte / in many a gyse
 Wel bettre / than they kan hem self deuyse
 Som man desireth / for to han richesse
 That cause is of his moerdre / or greet siknesse 1256
 And som man wolde / out of his prison fayn
 That in his hous / is of his meynnee slayn
 Infinite harmes / been in this mateere
 We witen nat what [thing] we preyen heere 1260
 We faren / as he that dronke is as a Mous
 A dronke man woot wel / þat he hath an hous
 But he noot which the righte wey is thider
 And to a dronke man / the wey is slider 1264
 And certes / in this world so faren we
 We seken faste / after felicittee
 But we goon wrong ful often trewely
 Thus may we seyn alle / and namely I 1268
 That wende / and hadde a greet opinion
 That if I myghte / escapen from prison
 Thanne hadde I been in ioye / and perfit heele
 That now / I am exiled fro my wele 1272
 Syn þat I may nat seen you Emelye
 I nam but deed / ther nys no remedye
 ¶ Vp on that oother syde / Palamon
 Whan þat he wiste / Arcite was agon 1276
 Swich sorwe he maketh / þat the grete tour
 Resounded / of his youlyng and clamour
 The pure fettres / on his shynes grete
 Weren / of his bittre salte teeres wete 1280
 Allas quod he / Arcita cosyn myn
 Of al oure strif / god woot the fruyt is thyn
 Thow walkest now in Thebes at thy large
 And of my wo / thow yuest litel charge 1284
 Thou mayst / syn thou hast wysdom *and* manhede

[leaf 18, back]

Assemblen / alle the folk / of oure kynrede
 And make a werre / so sharpe on this Citee
 That by som auenture / or som treetee 1288
 Thow mayst haue hire to lady and to wyf
 ffor whom / þat I moste nedes lese my lyf
 ffor / as by wey of possibilittee
 Sith thou art at thy large / of prisoñ free 1292
 And art a lord / greet is thyn auauntage
 Moore than is myn / þat sterue here in a cage
 ffor I moot wepe / and wayle whil I lyue
 With al the wo / þat prison may me yeue 1296
 And eek with peyne / þat loue me yeueth also
 That doubleth / al my torment / and my wo
 Ther with / the fyr of Ialousie vp sterte
 With Inne his brest and hente him by the herte 1300
 So woodly / that he lyk was to biholde
 The Boxtree / or the Asshen dede and colde
 ¶ Thanne seyde he / o crueel gooddes þat gouerne
 This world / with byndyng of youre word eterne 1304
 And writen in the table of Atthamaunt
 Youre parlement and youre eterne graunt
 What is mankynde / moore vn to you holde
 Than is the sheepe / þat rouketh in the folde 1308
 ffor slayn is man / right as another beest
 And dwelleth eek / in prison and arreest
 And hath siknesse / and greet aduersitee
 And ofte tymes / gilt[e]les pardee 1312
 ¶ What gouernance / is in this prescience
 That gilt[e]les / tormenteth Innocence
 And yet encresseth this / al my penaunce
 That man is bounden / to his observaunce 1316
 ffor goddes sake / to letten of his wille
 Ther as a beest / may al his lust fulfille
 And whan a beest is deed / he hath no peyne
 But after his deeth / man moot wepe and pleyne 1320
 Though in this world / he haue care and wo

With outen doute / it may stonden so
 The answere of this / lete I to dyuynys
 But well I woot^t þat in this world greet pyne ys 1324
 Allas / I se a serpent^t or a theef /
 That many a trewe man / hath doon mescheef^t
 Goon at his large / and where hym list^t may turne
 But I moot been in prison / thurgh Saturne 1328
 And eek thurgh Juno / Ialous and eek wood
 That hath destroyed / wel ny al the blood
 Of Thebes / with hise waste walles wyde [leaf 19]
 And venus / sleeth me on that oother syde 1332
 ffor Ialousie / and fere of hym Arcite
 ¶ Now wol I stynte of Palamon a lite
 And lete hym / in his prison stille dwelle
 And of Arcite / forth I wol yow telle 1336
 ¶ The sonne passeth / and the nyghtes longe
 Encressen double wise / the peynes stronge
 Bothe / of the louere / and the prisoner
 I noot^t which hath the wofuller mester 1340
 ffor shortly for to seyn / this Palamon
 Perpetuely / is dampned to prison
 In cheynes and in fettres / to been deed
 And Arcite / is exiled vpon his heed 1344
 ffor euere mo / as out of that contree
 Ne neuere mo / he shal his lady see
 Now loueres / axe I now this question
 Who hath the worse / Arcite / or Palamon? 1348
 That oon may seen his lady / day by day
 But in prison / he moot dwelle alway
 That oother / wher hym list^t may ride or go
 But seen his lady / shal he neuere mo 1352
 Now demeth as yow list^t ye that kan
 ffor I wol telle forth / as I bigan.

¶ Explicit prima Pars.

¶ Sequitur pars secunda 𐄂

Whan that Arcite / to Thebes comen was
 fful ofte a day / he swelte and seyde allas 1356
 ffor seen his lady / shal he neuere mo
 And shortly / to concluden al his wo
 So muche sorwe / hadde neuere creature
 That is / or shal / whil þat the world may dure 1360
 His slepe / his mete / his drynke / is hym biraft
 That lene he wexeth / and drye as is a shaft
 Hise eyen holwe / and grisly to biholde
 His hewe falow / and pale as Asshen colde 1364
 And solitarie he was / and euere allone
 And waillynge al the nyght makynge his mone
 And if he herde / song or Instrument
 Thanne wolde he wepe / he myghte nat be stent 1368
 So feble eek were hise spiritz and so lowe
 And chaunged so / that no man koude knowe
 His speche nor his voys / though men it herde
 And in his geere / for al the world he ferde 1372
 Nat oonly / lik the louteris maladye [leaf 19, back]
 Of Hereos / but rather lyk Manye ¶ Mania
 Engendred / of humour malencolik
 Biforn his owene Celle fantastik 1376
 And shortly / turned was al vp so down
 Bothe habit / and eek disposicioun
 Of hym this woful louere daun Arcite
 ¶ What sholde I / al day of his wo endite 1380
 Whan he endured hadde / a yeer or two
 This crueel torment and this peyne *and* woo
 At Thebes in his contree / as I seyde
 Vp on a nyght / in sleepe as he hym leyde 1384
 Hym thoughte / how that the wynged god Mercurie
 Biforn hym stood / and bad hym to be murie
 His slepy yerde / in hond he bar vprighte
 An hat he werede / vp hise heris brighte 1388

Arrayed was this god / as I took keepe
 As he was / whan þat Argus took his sleepe
 And seyde hym thus / to Atthenes shaltou wende
 Ther is thee shapen / of thy wo an ende 1392
 And with that word / Arcite wook^t and sterte
 Now trewely / hou soore þat me smerte
 Quod he / to Atthenes / right now wol I fare
 Ne for the drede of deeth / shal I nat spare 1396
 To se my lady / that I loue and serue
 In hire presence / I recche nat to sterue
 ¶ And with that word / he caughte a greet Mirour
 And saugh / þat chaunged was al his colour 1400
 And saugh his visage / al in another kynde
 And right anon / it ran hym in his mynde
 That sith his face / was so disfigured
 Of maladye / the which he hadde endured 1404
 He myghte wel / if þat he bar hym lowe
 Lyue in Atthenes / eueremoore vnknowe
 And seen his lady / wel ny day by day
 And right anon / he chaunged his array 1408
 And cladde hym / as a poure laborer
 And al allone / saue oonly a Squier
 That knew his priuete / and al his cas
 Which was disgised / pourely as he was 1412
 To Atthenes / is he goon the nexte way
 And to the court he wente vp on a day
 And at the gate / he profreth his seruyse
 To drugge and drawe / what so men wol deuyse 1416
 And shortly / of this matere for to seyn
 He fil in office / with a Chamberleyn
 The which þat dwellynge was with Emelye
 ffor he was wys / and koude soone espye 1420
 Of euery seruañt which that serueth here [leaf 20]
 Wel koude he / hewen wode / and water bere
 ffor he was yong / and myghty for the nones
 And ther to / he was long / and big^t of bones 1424

To doon / that any wight / kan hym deuyse
 A yeer or two / he was in this seruyse
 Page of the chambre / of Emelye the brighte
 And Philostrate / he seyde þat he highte 1428
 But half / so wel / biloued a man as he
 Ne was ther neuere in Court of his degree
 He was so gentil of his condicioun
 That thurghout al the Court was his renoun 1432
 They seyden / that it were a charitee
 That Theseus / wolde enhauncen his degree
 And putten hym / in worshipful seruyse
 Ther as he myghte / his vertu excercise 1436
 And thus / with Inne a while / his name is spronge
 Bothe of hise dedes / and his goode tonge
 That Theseus / hath taken hym so neer
 That of his chambre / he made hym a Squier 1440
 And gaf him gold / to mayntene his degree
 And eek men broghte hym / out of his contree
 ffrom yeer to yeer / ful pryuely his rente
 But honestly / and slyly he it spente 1444
 That no man wondred / how þat he it hadde
 And thre yeer in this wise / his lif he ladde
 And bar hym so / in pees / and eek in werre
 Ther was no man / þat Theseus hath derre 1448
 And in this blisse / lete I now Arcite
 And speke I wole / of Palamon a lite
IN derknesse and horrible / and strong prison
 Thise seuen yeer / hath seten Palamon 1452
 fforpynd / what for wo / and for distresse
 Who feeleth / double soor heuynesse
 But Palamon / that loue destreyneth so
 That wood out of his wit he goth for wo 1456
 And eek ther to / he is a prisoner
 Perpetuely / noght oonly / for a yer
 ¶ Who koude ryme in englyssh proprely
 His martirdom / for sothe it am nat I . 1460

Therefore I passe / as lightly as I may
 ¶ It fel / that in the seuenthe yer in May
 The thridde nyght as olde bookes seyn
 That al this storie / tellen moore pleyn 1464
 Were it by auenture or / destynee
 As whan a thyng is shapen / it shal be
 That soone after the mydnyght Palamon
 By helpyng of a freend / brak his prison 1468
 ¶ And fleeth the Citee / faste as he may go [leaf 20, back]
 ffor he hade yeue / his gayler drynke so
 Of a Clarree maad / of a certeyn wyn
 Of Nercotikes / and Opie of Thebes fyn ¶ Opium Thebaicum.
 That al that nyght thogh þat men wolde him shake
 The gayler sleepe / he myghte nat awake
 ¶ And thus he fleeth / as faste as euere he may
 The nyght was short and faste by the day 1476
 That nedes cost he moot hym seluen hyde
 And til a groue / faste ther bisyde
 With dredeful foot thanne stalketh Palamon
 ffor shortly / this was his opinion 1480
 That in that groue / he wolde hym hyde al day
 And in the nyght / thanne wolde he take his way
 To Thebes ward / his freendes for to preye
 On Theseus / to helpe him to werreye 1484
 And shortly / outhur he wolde lese his lif
 Or wynnen Emelye / vn to his wyf
 This is theeffect and his entente pleyn
 ¶ Now wol I turne / to Arcite ageyn 1488
 That litel wiste / how ny þat was his care
 Til þat ffortune / had broght him in the snare
 The bisy larke / messenger of day
 Salueth in hir song / the morwe gray 1492
 And firy Phebus / riseth vp so brighte
 That al the Orient laugheth of the lighte
 And with hise stremes / dryeth in the greues
 The siluer dropes / hangynge on the leues 1496

And Arcita / that is in the court Roial
 With Theseus / his Squier principal
 Is risen / and looketh on the myrie day
 And for to doon / his obseruaunce to May 1500
 Remembrynge / on the poynt of his desir
 He on a Courser / startlynge as the fir
 Is riden in to the feeldes / hym to pleye
 Out of the Court were it a myle or tweye 1504
 And to the groue / of which þat I yow tolde
 By auenture / his wey / he gan to holde
 To maken hym / a gerland / of the greues
 Were it of wodebynde / or hawethorn leues 1508
 And loude he song^t ayeyn the sonne shene
 May / with alle thy floures and thy grene
 Wel come be thou / faire fresshe May
 In hope / þat I som grene gete may 1512
 And from his courser / with a lusty herte
 In to a groue / ful hastily he sterte
 And in a path / he rometh vp and doun
 Ther as by auenture / this Palamon 1516
 Was in a buss^h / that no man mygh^te hym se [leaf 21]
 ffor soore aferd of his deeth / thanne was he
 No thyng^t ne knew he / that it was Arcite
 God woot^t he wolde haue trowed it ful lite 1520
 But sooth is seyde / go sithen many yeres
 That feeld hath eyen / and the wode hath eres
 It is ful fair / a man to bere hym euene
 ffor al day / meeteth men at vnset steuene 1524
 fful litel woot Arcite of his felawe
 That was so ny / to herkennen al his sawe
 ffor in the buss^h / he sitteth now ful stille
 ¶ Whan þat Arcite / hadde romed al his fille 1528
 And songen al the roundel lustily
 In to a studie / he fil al sodeynly
 As doon thise loueres / in hir queynte geres
 Now in the crope / now doun in the breres 1532

Now vp / now doun / as boket in a welle
 Right as the friday / soothly for to telle
 Now it shyneth / now it reyneth faste
 Right so / kan geery Venus ouer caste 1536
 The hertes of hir folk / right as hir day
 Is gerefyl / right so chaungeth she array
 Selde is the friday / al the wowke ylike
 ¶ Whan þat Arcite had songe / he gan to sike 1540
 And sette hym doun / with outen any moore
 Allas quod he / that day þat I was bore
 How longe Iuno / thurgh thy crueltee
 Woltow werreyen Thebes the Citee 1544
 Allas / ybrought is to confusiō
 The blood roial / of Cadme and Amphion ¶ Cadmus
 Of Cadmus / which þat was the firste man
 That Thebes bulte / or first the toun bigan 1548
 And of the Citee / first was crouned kyng
 Of his lynage am I / and his of spryng /
 By verray ligne / as of the stok roial
 And now I am / so caytyf / and so thral 1552
 That he / that is my mortal enemy
 I serue hym / as his squier pourely
 And yet / dooth Iuno me / wel moore shame
 ffor I dar noght biknowe myn owene name 1556
 But ther as I / was wont to highte Arcite
 Now highte I Philostrate / noght worth a myte
 Allas thou felle Mars / allas Iuno
 Thus hath youre Ire / oure kynrede al fordo 1560
 Saue oonly me / and wrecched Palamoñ
 That Theseus / martireth in prisoñ
 And ouer al this / to sleen me outrely
 Loue hath / his firy dart so brennyngly 1564
 Ystiked / thurgh my trewe careful herte [leaf 21, back]
 That shapen was my deeth / erst than my sherte
 Ye sleen me / with youre eyen Emelye
 Ye been the cause / wherfore þat I dye 1568

Of al the remenant of myn oother care
 Ne sette I nat the montance of a tare
 So þat I koude / doon aught to youre plesaunce
 And with that word / he fil down in a traunce 1572
 A longe tyme / and after he vp sterte
 ¶ This Palamon / þat thoughte þat thurgh his herte
 He felte a coold swerd / sodeynliche glyde
 ffor Ire he quook / no lenger wolde he byde 1576
 And whan þat he / had herd Arcites tale
 As he were wood / with face / deed and pale
 He stirte hym vp / out of the buskes thikke
 And seide Arcite / false traytour wikke 1580
 Now artow hent that louest my lady so
 ffor whom þat I haue / al this peyne and wo
 And art my blood / and to my conseil sworn
 As I ful ofte / haue seyð thee heer biforn 1584
 And hast byiaped heere / duc Theseus
 And falsly / chaunged hast / thy name thus
 I wol be deed / or elles thou shalt dye
 Thou shalt nat / loue my lady Emelye 1588
 But I wol loue hire oonly / and namo
 ffor I am Palamon / thy mortal foo
 And though þat I no wepene haue in this place
 But out of prison / am astert by grace 1592
 I drede noght / þat outhur thou shalt dye
 Or thou ne shalt nat louen Emelye
 Chees which thou wolt or thou shalt nat asterte
 ¶ This Arcite / with ful despitous herte 1596
 Whan he hym knew / and hadde his tale herd
 As fiers as leon / pulled out his swerd
 And seyde thus / by god þat sit aboue
 Nere it / þat thou art sik and wood for loue 1600
 And eek þat thou no wepne hast in this place
 Thou sholdest neuere / out of this groue pace
 That thou ne sholdest dyen of myn hond
 ffor I defye / the seurete and the bond 1604

Which that thou seist^t þat I haue maad to thee
 What verray fool / thynk^t wel / þat loue is fre
 And I wol loue hire / mawgree al thy myght
 But for as muche / thou art a worthy knyght^t 1608
 And wilnest^t to darreyne hire by bataille
 Haue heer my trouthe / tomorwe I wol nat faile
 With oute wityng^t of any oother wight
 That heere / I wol be founden as a knyght^t 1612
 And bryngen harneys / right ynough for thee [leaf 22]
 And chese the beste / and leue the worste for me
 And mete and drynke / this nyght wol I brynge
 Ynough for thee / and clothes for thy beddyng 1616
 And if so be / that thou my lady wynne
 And sle me in this wode / ther I am Inne
 Thow mayst wel haue thy lady / as for me
 ¶ This Palamon answerde / I graunte it thee 1620
 And thus they been departed / til amorwe
 Whan ech of hem / had leyd his feith to borwe
 O Cupide / out of alle charitee
 O regne / þat wolt no felawe haue with thee 1624
 fful sooth is seyde / þat loue ne lordshipe
 Wol noght^t hir thankes / haue no felaweshipe
 Wel fynden that Arcite and Palamon
 Arcite is riden anon / vn to the toun 1628
 And on the morwe / er it were dayes light^t
 fful priuely / two harneys hath he dight
 Bothe suffisaunt^t and mete to darreyne
 The bataille in the feeld^t / bitwix hem tweyne 1632
 And on his hors / allone as he was born
 He carieth / al the harneys / hym biforn
 And in the groue / at tyme and place yset^t
 This Arcite / and this Palamon ben met^t 1636
 To chaungen / gan the colour in hir face
 Right as the nunters / in the regne of Trace
 That stondeth at the gappe with a spere
 Whan hunted is / the leon and the bere 1640

And hereth hym / come russhyngⁱ in the greues
 And breketh / bothe bowes / and the leues
 And thynketh / heere cometh my mortal enemy
 With oute faile / he moot be deed / or I; 1644
 ffor outh^r / I moot sleen hym at the gappe
 Or he moot sleen me / if þat me myshappe
 So ferden they / in chaungyngⁱ of hir hewe
 As fer / as euerich of hem oother knewe 1648
 ¶ Ther nas no good day ne no saluyngⁱ
 But streightⁱ with outen word / or rehersyngⁱ
 Euerich of hem / heelp^e for to armen oother
 As freenly / as he were his owene brother 1652
 And after thatⁱ with sharpe speres stronge
 They foynen ech at oother wonder longe
 Thou mygh^test wene / that this Palamon
 In his fightyngⁱ were [as] a wood leon 1656
 And as a crueel Tigre was Arcite
 As wilde bores / gonne they to smyte
 That frothen whit as foom / for Ire wood
 Vp to the Anclee / foghte they in hir blood 1660
 ¶ And in this wise / I lete hem fightyng dwelle [leaf 22, back]
 And forth I wole / of Theseus yow telle
 The destinee / Ministre general
 That executeth / in the world ouer al 1664
 The purueiaunce / that god hath seyn biforn
 So strong it is / þat though the world had sworn
 The contrarie of a thyngⁱ by ye or nay
 Yet somtyme / it shal fallen on a day 1668
 That falleth nat eftⁱ with Inne a thousand yeere
 ffor certeinly / oure appetites heere
 Be itⁱ of werre / or pees / or hate / or loue
 Al is this reuled / by the sig^hte aboue 1672
 ¶ This mene I now / by mygh^ty Theseus
 That for to hunt^en / is so desirus
 And namely / at the grete hert in May
 That in his bed / ther daweth hym no day 1676

That he nys clad / and redy for to ryde
 With hunte and horn / and houndes hym bisyde
 ffor in his huntynge. hath he swich delit
 That it is / al his ioie and appetit 1680
 To been hym self / the grete hertes bane
 ffor after Mars / he serueth now dyane
 ¶ Cleer was the day / as I haue toold er this
 And Theseus / with alle ioie and blis 1684
 With his ypolita / the faire queene
 And Emelye / clothed al in grene
 On huntynge be they riden roially
 And to the groue / that stood ful faste by 1688
 In which ther was an hert as men hym tolde
 Duc Theseus / the streighte wey hath holde
 And to the launde / he rideth hym ful right /
 ffor thider was the hert wont haue his flight 1692
 And ouer a brook / and so forth in his weye
 This duc. wol han a cours at hym or tweye
 With houndes / swiche as hym list comaunde
 ¶ And whan this duc was come vn to the launde 1696
 Vnder the sonne he looketh / and anon
 He was war / of Arcite and Palamon
 That foughten breme / as it were bores two
 The brighte swerdes / wenten to and fro 1700
 So hidously / that with the leeste strook
 It semed / as it wolde fille an ook
 But what they were / no thyng he ne woot
 This duc his courser / with his spores smoot 1704
 And at a stert he was bitwix hem two
 And pulled out a swerd / and cride hoo
 Namooore / vp on payne of lesynge of youre heed
 By myghty Mars / he shal anon be deed 1708
 That smyteth any strook. that I may seen [leaf 23]
 But telleth me / what mystiers men ye been
 That been so hardy / for to fighten heere
 With outen Iuge / or oother Officere 1712

As it were / in a lystes roially
 ¶ This Palamon / answerde hastily
 And seyde / sire / what nedeth wordes mo
 We haue / the deeth / disserued bothe two 1716
 Two woful wrecches been we / two caytyues
 That been encombred / of oure owene lyues
 And as thou art a rightful lord and Iuge
 Ne yeue vs / neither mercy ne refuge 1720
 But sle me first for seinte charitee
 But sle my felawe eek as wel as me
 Or sle hym first. for though thou knowest it lite
 This is thy mortal foo / this is Arcite 1724
 That fro thy lond / is banysshed on his heed
 ffor which / he hath deserued to be deed
 ffor this is he / þat cam vn to thy gate
 And seyde / þat he highte Philostrate 1728
 Thus hath he iaped thee / ful many a yer
 And thou hast maked hym thy chief Squier
 And this is he / that loueth Emelye
 ffor sith the day is come / þat I shal dye 1732
 I make pleyonly / my confessiõ
 That I am / thilke woful Palamon
 That hath / thy prisoñ broken wikkedly
 I am thy mortal foo / and it am I 1736
 That loueth so hoote / Emelye the brighte
 That I wol dye / present in hir sighte
 Therefore I axe deeth / and my Iuise
 But sle my felawe / in the same wise 1740
 ffor bothe / han we deserued to be slayn
 ¶ This worthy duc answerde anon agayn
 And seyde / this is a short conclusiõ
 Youre owene mouth / by youre confessiõ 1744
 Hath dampned yow / and I wol it recorde
 It nedeth noght / to pyne yow with the corde
 Ye shal be deed / by myghty Mars the rede
 ¶ The queene anon / for verray wommanhede 1748

Gan for to wepe / and so dide Emelye
 And alle the ladyes / in the compaignye
 Greet pitee was it as it thoughte hem alle
 That euere / swich a chaunce sholde falle 1752
 ffor gentil men they were / of greet estaat
 And no thyng but for loue was this debaat
 And saugh hir bloody woundes / wyde and soore
 And alle crieden / bothe lasse and moore 1756
 Haue mercy Lord / vp on vs wommen alle [leaf 23, back]
 And on hir bare knees / adoun they falle
 And wolde haue kist his feet ther as he stood
 Til at the laste / aslaked was his mood 1760
 ffor pitee / renneth soone in gentil herte
 And though / he first for Ire quook and sterte
 He hath considered / shortly in a clause
 The trespas of hem bothe / and eek the cause 1764
 And al though þat his Ire / hir gilt accused
 Yet in his resoñ / he hem bothe excused
 And thus / he thoghte wel þat euery man
 Wol helpe hym self in loue / if that he kan 1768
 And eek deliuere hym self / out of prisoñ
 And eek his herte hadde compassion
 Of wommen / for they wepen euere in oon
 And / in his gentil herte / he thoughte anon 1772
 And softe vn to hym self / he seyde fy
 Vp on a lord / that wol haue no mercy ¶ *Notate domini.*
 But been a leon / bothe in word and dede
 To hem / þat been in repentañce and drede 1776
 As wel / as to a proud despitous man
 That wol maynteyne / that he first bigan
 That lord / hath litel of discrecioñ
 That in swich cas / kan no diuision 1780
 But weyeth / pride and humblesse after oon
 And shortly / whan his Ire / is thus agoon
 He gan to looken vp / with eyen lighte
 And spak thise same wordes / al on highte 1784

¶ The god of loue / A benedicite
How myghty / and how greet a lord is he
Ayeyns his myght ther gayneth none obstacles
He may be cleped a god / for hise myracles 1788
ffor he kan maken / at his owene gyse
Of euerich herte / as þat hym list diuyse
Lo heere this Arcite / and this Palamon
That quitly weren / out of my prison 1792
And myghte / han lyued in Thebes roially
And witen / I am hir mortal enemy
And þat hir deth / lith in my myght also
And yet hath loue / maugree hir eyen two 1796
[Y-]Broght hem hyder / bothe for to dye
Now looketh / is nat that an heigh folye
¶ Who may [nat] been a fole / but if he loue
Bihoold / for goddes sake þat sit aboue 1800
Se how they blede / be they noght wel arrayed
Thus hath hir lord / the god of loue ypayed
Hir wages / and hir fees / for hir seruyse
And yet they wenen / for to been ful wyse 1804
That seruen loue / for aught that may bifalle [leaf 24]
But this is yet the beste game of alle
That she / for whom they han this Iolitee
Kan hem ther fore / as muche thank / as me 1808
She woot namoore / of al this hote fare
By god / than woot a Cokkow of an hare
But all moot ben assayed / hoot and coold
A man moot ben a fool / or yong or oold 1812
I woot it by my self / ful yore agon
ffor in my tyme / a seruant was I oon
And therefore / syn I knowe of loues peyne
And woot hou soore / it kan a man distreyne 1816
As he / þat hath / ben caught ofte in his laas
I yow foryeue / al hoolly this trespaas
At requeste of the queene / þat kneleth heere
And eek of Emelye / my suster deere 1820

And ye shul bothe / anon vn to me swere
 That neuere mo / ye shal my contree dere
 Ne make werre vp on me nyght ne day
 But been my freendes / in al that ye may 1824
 I yow foryeue / this trespas euery deel
 And they him sworn / his axying^t faire *and* weel
 And hym of lordshipe / and of mercy preyde
 And he hem graunteth *grace* / and thus he seyde 1828
TO speke / of roial lynage and richesse
 Though *þat* she were a queene or a princesse
 Ech of you bothe / is worthy doutelees
 To wedden whan tyme is doutelees 1832
 I speke / as for my suster Emelye
 ffor whom ye haue / this strif *and* Ialousye
 Ye woot your self^t she may nat wedden two
 Atones / though ye fighten eueremo 1836
 That oon of you / al be hym looth or lief/
 He moot[e] pipen / in an yuy leef
 This is to seyn / she may nat now han bothe
 Al be ye neuer so Ialouse / ne so wrothe 1840
 And for thy / I yow putte in this degree
 That ech of yow / shal haue his destynnee
 As hym is shape / and herkneth in what wyse
 Lo heere your ende / of that I shal deuyse 1844
My wyl is this / for plat conclusiō
 With outen / any repplicaciō
 If that you liketh / take it^t for the beste
 That euerich of you / shal goon where hym leste 1848
 ffrely / with outen raunson / or daunger
 And this day fifty wykes / fer ne ner
 Euerich of you / shal brynge an hundred knyghtes
 Armed for lystes / vp at alle rightes 1852
 ¶ Al redy / to darreyne hire by bataille [leaf 24, back]
 And this bihote I yow / with outen faille
 Vp on my trouthe / and as I am a knyght^t
 That wheither of yow bothe *þat* hath myght^t 1856

This is to seyn / that wheither he or thow
 May *with* his hundred / as I spak of now
 Sleen his contrarie / or out of lystes dryue
 Thanne shal I yeue / Emelya to wyue 1860
 To whom þat ffortune / yeueth so fair a grace
 Tho lystes / shal I maken in this place
 And god so wisly / on my soule rewe
 As I shal euene Iuge been and trewe 1864
 Ye shul noon oother ende / *with* me maken
 That oon of yow / ne shal be deed or taken
 And if yow thynketh / this is weel ysayd
 Seyeth youre ays / and holdeth you apayd 1868
 This is youre ende / and youre conclusiō
 ¶ Who looketh lightly now / but Palamoñ
 Who spryngeth vp for ioye / but Arcite
 Who kouthe telle / or who kouthe endite 1872
 The ioye / þat is maked in the place
 Whan Theseus / hath doon so fair a grace
 But doun on knees / wente every maner wight
 And thonken hym / *with* al hir herte and myght 1876
 And namely the Thebans often sithe
 And thus with good hope / and *with* herte blithe
 They taken hir leue / and homward gonne they ride
 To Thebes / with hise olde walles wyde 1880

¶ Explicit secunda pars

¶ Sequitur pars tercia

I trowe / men wolde deme it negligence
 If I foryete / to tellen the dispence
 Of Theseus / that gooth so bisily
 To maken vp / the lystes roially 1884
 That swich a noble Theatre / as it was
 I dar wel seyn / in this world ther nas
 The circuit / a myle was aboute
 Walled of stoon / and dyched al with oute 1888
 Round was the shape / in manere of compaas

fful of degrees / the heighte of sixty pas
 That whan a man / was set / on o degree
 He lette nat' his felawe for to see 1892
 ¶ Estward / ther stood a gate of Marbul whit/
 Westward right swich another in the opposit'
 ¶ And shortly to concluden / swich a place [leaf 25]
 Was noon in erthe / as in so litel space 1896
 ffor in the lond / ther was no crafty man
 That geometrie or Ars Metrik kan
 Ne portreitour / ne keruere of ymages
 That Theseus / ne yaf [him] mete and wages 1900
 The Theatre / for to maken and deuyse
 And for to doon / his ryte and sacrificise
 He Estward / hath vp on the gate aboue
 In worshipe of Venus goddesse of loue 1904
 Doon make an Auter / and an Oratorie
 And on the westward / in memorie
 Of Mars / he maked hath right swich another
 That coste largely / of gold a fother 1908
 And Northward / in a Touret / on the wal
 Of Alabastre whit' and reed coral
 An Oratorie / riche for to see
 In worshipe of Dyane of Chastitee 1912
 Hath Theseus doon wroght' in noble wyse
 ¶ But yet' hadde I foryeten to deuyse
 The noble keruyng' and the portreitures
 The shape / the contenaunce and the figures 1916
 That weren / in thise Oratories thre
 ¶ ffirst' in the temple of Venus / maystow se
 Wroght on the wal / ful pitous to biholde
 The broken slepes / and the sikes colde 1920
 The sacred teeris / and the waymentynge
 The firy strokes / and the desiryng
 That loues seruauntz / in this lyf enduren
 The othes / that her couenantz assuren 1924
 Plesaunce and hope / desir foolhardynesse

Beautee and youthe / bauderie richesse
 Charmes and force / lesynges flaterye
 Despense / bisynesse and Ialousye 1928
 That wered of yelewe gooldes a gerland
 And a Cokkow / sittynge on hir hand
 ffestes / Instrumentz / caroles daunces
 Lust and array / and alle the circumstaunces 1932
 Of loue / whiche þat I rekned haue / *and* rekne shal
 By ordre / weren peynted on the wal
 And mo / than I kan make of mencioñ
 ffor soothly / al the mount of Citheroñ 1936
 Ther Venus / hath hir principal dwellynge
 Was shewed on the wal / in portreyynge
 With al the gardyn / and the lustynesse
 Nat was foryeten / the Porter ydelnesse 1940
 Ne Narcisus the faire / of yore agon
 And yet the folye / of kyng Salamon
 ¶ And eek the grete strengthe of Ercules [leaf 25, back]
 Thenchautementz of Medea and Circes 1944
 Ne of Turnus / *with* the hardy fiers corage
 The riche Cresus / kaytyf / in seruage
 Thus may ye seen / þat wysdom ne richesse
 Beautee ne sleighte / strengthe hardynesse 1948
 Ne may with Venus / holde champartie
 ffor as hir list the world than may she gye
 Lo alle thise folk so caught were in hir las
 Til they for wo / ful ofte seyde allas 1952
 Suffiseth heere / ensamples oon or two
 And though / I koude rekene a thousand mo
 The statue of Venus / glorious for to se
 Was naked / fletynge in the large see 1956
 And fro the nauele down / al couered was
 With wawes grene / and brighte as any glas
 A Citole / in hir right hand / hadde she
 And on hir heed / ful semely for to se 1960
 A Rose gerland fressh / and wel smellynge

Aboue hir heed / hir dowues flikerynge
 Biforñ hire / stood hir sone Cupido
 Vp on his shuldres / wynges hadde he two. 1964
 And blynd he was / as it was often seene
 A bowe he bar / and Arwes brighte and kene
 ¶ Why sholde I noght / as wel eek telle yow al
 The portreiture / that was vp on the wal 1968
 With Inne the temple / of myghty Mars the rede
 Al peynted was the wal / in lengthe and brede
 Lyk to the estres / of the grisly place
 That highte the grete temple of Mars in Trace 1972
 In thilke colde / frosty Region
 Ther as Mars / hath his souereyn mansion
 ¶ ffirst on the wal / was peynted a forest
 In which ther dwelleth / neither man ne best 1976
 With knotty knarry / bareyne trees olde
 Of stubbes sharpe / and hidouse to biholde
 In which ther ran / a rumbel and a swough
 As though a storm / sholde bresten euery bough 1980
 And dounward from an hille / vnder a bente
 Ther stood the temple of Mars Armypotente
 Wroght al of burned steel / of which the entree
 Was long and streit and gastly for to see 1984
 And ther out came a rage / and suche a veze^{.i. impetus}
 That it made / al the gate for to rese
 The Northren lyght in at the dores shoon
 ffor wyndowe / on the wal ne was ther noon 1988
 Thurgh which men myghten / any light discerne
 The dore was al / of Adamant eterne
 Yclenched / ouerthwart and endelong 1992
 With Iren tough / and for to make it strong
 Euery pyler the temple to sustene
 Was tonne greet of Iren bright and shene
 ¶ Ther saugh I first the dirke ymaginyng
 Of felonye / and the compassyng 1996
 The crueel Ire / reed as any gleede

The pykepurs / and the pale drede
 The smylere / with the knyfe vnder the cloke
 The shepne / brennyng / with the blake smoke 2000
 The treson / of the mordrynge in the bedde
 The open werre / with woundes al biblesde
 Contek with bloody knyft and sharpe manace
 Al ful of chirkyng. was that sory place 2004
 ¶ The sleere of hym self / yet saugh I ther
 His herte blood / hath bathed al his heer
 The nayl ydryuen / in the shode a nyght
 The colde deeth / with mouth gapyng vp right 2008
 Amyddes of the temple / sat meschaunce
 With discomfort and sory contenaunce
 ¶ Yet saugh I woodnesse / laughynge in his rage
 Armed compleint out hees / and fiers outrage 2012
 The careyne in the busk with throte ycorue
 A thousand slayn / and nat oon of qualm ystorue
 The tiraunt with the pray by force yraft
 The toun destroyed / ther was no thy[ng laft¹] [1 in a later hand]
 ¶ Yet saugh I brent the shippes hoppesteres
 The hunte strangled / with the wilde beres
 The sowe / freten the child right in the Cradel
 The Cook yscalded / for al his longe ladel 2020
 ¶ Noght was foryeten / by the Infortune of Marte
 The Cartere / ouer ryden with his Carte
 Vnder the wheel / ful lowe / he lay adoun
 ¶ Ther were also / of Martes diuisioun 2024
 The laborer / and the Bocher and the Smyth
 That forgeth sharpe swerdes on his Styth
 ¶ And al aboue / depeynted in a tour
 Saugh I Conquest sittynge in greet honour 2028
 With the sharpe swerd / ouer his heed
 Hangynge / by a soutil twynes threed
 ¶ Depeynted was / the slaughtre of Iulius
 Of grete Nero / and of Antonius 2032
 Al be þat thilke tyme / they were vnborn

Yet was hir deth / depeynted ther biforn
 By manasyng of Mars / right by figure
 So was it shewed in that portreiture 2036
 As is depeynted / in the Certres aboute
 Who shal be slayn / or elles deed for loue
 Suffiseth oon ensample in stories olde [leaf 26, back]
 I may nat rekene hem alle though I wolde 2040
The Statue of Mars / vp vn a Carte stood
 Armed / and looked grym as he were wood
 And ouer his heed / ther shynen two figures
 Of sterres / that been cleped in scriptures 2044
 That oon Puella / that oother Rubeus
 This god of Armes / was arrayed thus
 A wolf ther stood / biforn hym at his feet
 With eyen rede / and of a man he eet 2048
 With soutil pencil / was depeynted this storie
 In redoutynge / of Mars and of his glorie
Now / to the temple / of Dyane the chaste
 As shortly as I kan I wol me haste 2052
 To telle yow / al the descripsioun
 Depeynted been the walles vp and doun
 Of huntynge / and of shamefast chastitee
 ¶ Ther saugh I / how woful Calistopee 2056
 Whan þat Diane / agreued was with here
 Was turned / from a womman to a Bere
 And after was she maad the loode sterre ¶ Vrsa maior
 Thus was it peynted / I kan sey yow no ferre 2060
 Hir sone is eek a sterre as men may see
 ¶ Ther saugh I Dane / yturned til a tree
 I mene nat the goddesse Diane
 But Penneus doughter / which þat highte Dane 2064
 ¶ Ther saugh I Attheon / an hert ymaked
 ffor vengeance / þat he saugh Diane al naked
 I saugh / how þat hise houndes / haue hym caught
 And freeten hym / for þat they knewe hym naught 2068
 ¶ Yet peynted / [was] a litel forther moor

How Atthalante / hunted the wilde boor
 And Meleagree / and many another mo
 ffor which Dyane / wroghte hym care and wo 2072
 ¶ Ther saugh I / many another wonder storie
 The whiche / me list nat^t drawen to memorie
 ¶ This goddesse on an hert^t ful wel hye seet^t
 With smale houndes / al aboute hir feet^t 2076
 And vnder nethe hir feet^t she hadde a moone
 Wexynge it was / and sholde wanye soone
 In gaude grene / hir statue clothed was
 With bowe in honde / and Arwes in a cas 2080
 Hir eyen caste she / ful lowe adoun
 Ther Pluto / hath his derke region
 ¶ A womman trauaillynge / was hire biforn
 But for hir child / so longe was vnborn 2084
 fful pitously / Lucyna / gan she calle
 And seyde helpe / for thou mayst^t best of alle
 Wel koude he peynten lifly / that it wroghte [leaf 27]
 With many a floryn / he the hewes boghte 2088
 N Ow been the lystes maad / and Theseus
 That at his grete cost / arrayed thus
 The temples / and the Theatre euery deel
 Whan it was doon / hym lyked wonder weel 2092
 But stynte I wole / of Theseus a lite
 And speke of Palamon / and of Arcite
 ¶ The day approacheth / of hir retournynge
 That euerich / sholde an hundred knyghtes brynge 2096
 The bataille to darreyne / as I yow tolde
 And til Atthenes / hir couenantz for to holde
 Hath euerich of hem / broght^t an hundred knyghtes
 Wel armed for the werre / at alle rightes 2100
 And sikerly / ther trowed many a man
 That neuere sithen / that the world bigan
 As for to speke / of knyghthod of hir hond^t
 As fer / as god hath maked see or lond^t 2104
 Nas of so fewe / so noble a compaignye

ffor euery wight that louede chivalrye
 And wolde his thankes / han a passant name
 Hath preyd / þat he myghte been of that game 2108
 And wel was hym / that ther to chosen was
 ffor if ther fille tomorwe swich a caas
 Ye knowen wel / þat euery lusty knyght
 That loueth paramours / and hath his myght 2112
 Were it in Engelond / or elles where
 They wolde hir thankes / wilnen to be there
 To fighte for a lady / benedicitee
 It were a lusty sighte / for to see 2116
 ¶ And right so / ferden they with Palamon
 With hym / ther wenten knyghtes many on
 Som wol ben armed in an haubergeon
 And in bristplate / and in a light gypon 2120
 And somme woln haue / a paire plates large
 And somme woln haue / a Pruce sheeld / or a targe
 Somme woln ben armed / on hir legges weel
 And haue an Ax / and somme a Mace of steel 2124
 Ther is no newe gyse / that it nas old
 Armed were they / as I haue yow told
 Everych / after his opinioñ
 Ther maistow seen / comynge with Palamon 2128
 Lygurge hym self the grete kyng of Trace
 Blak was his berd / and manly was his face
 The cercles / of hise eyen in his heed
 They gloweden / bitwyxen yelow and reed 2132
 And lik a grifphon / looked he aboute
 With kempe heeris / on hise browes stoute
 Hise lymes grete / hise bawnes harde and stronge [leaf 27, back]
 Hise shuldres brode / hise armes rounde and longe 2136
 And as the gyse was in his contree
 fful hye / vpon a Chaar of gold / stood [he¹] [in a later hand]
 With foure white boles in the trays
 In stede of Cote Armure / ouer his harnays 2140
 With nayles yelewe / and brighte as any gold

He hadde a Beres skyn / colblak / for old
 His longe heer / was kembd / bihynde his bak
 As any Rauenes fethere / it shoon for blak^t 2144
 A wrethe of gold arm greet / of huge wighte
 Vpon his heed / set ful of stones brighte
 Of fyne Rubyes / and of dyamauntz
 Aboute his Chaar / ther wenten white Alauntz 2148
 Twenty and mo / as grete as any steer
 To huntun at the leonⁿ or¹ / the deer [1 MS. or / or]
 And folwed hym / with mosel faste ybounde
 Colered of gold / and tourettes fyled rounde 2152
 An hundred lordes / hadde he in his route
 Armed ful wel / with hertes stierne and stoute
 With Arcite / in stories as men fynde
 The grete Emetreus / the kyng of Inde 2156
 Vp on a steede bay / trapped in steel
 Couered in clooth of gold / dyapred weel
 Cam ridynge / lyk^t the god of Armes Mars
 His Cote Armure / was of clooth of Tars 2160
 Couched with perles / white and rounde *and* grete
 His sadel / was of brend gold newe ybete
 A Mantel [was] / vp on his shulder hangynge
 Brat ful of Rubyes rede / as fyr sparklynge 2164
 His crispe heer / lyk rynges was yronne
 And that was yelow / and glytered as the sonne
 His nose was heigh / hise eyen bright citrynⁿ
 Hise lippes rounde / his colour was sangwyn 2168
 A fewe frakenes / in his face yspreynd^t
 Bitwixen yelow / and somdel blak ymeynd^t
 And as a leonⁿ / he his lookyng^t caste
 Of fyue and twenty yeer / his age I caste 2172
 His berd was wel bigonne for to sprynge
 His voys / was as a trompe thondrynge
 Vp on his heed / he wered of laurer grene
 A gerland^t / fressh / and lusty for to sene 2176
 Vp on his hand / he bar for his deduyt^t

An Egle tame / as any lilye whyt
 An hundred lordes / hadde he with hym there
 Al armed saue hir heddes / in al hir gere 2180
 fful richely / in alle maner thynges
 ffor trusteth wel / þat dukes / Erles kynges
 Were gadered / in this noble compaignye [leaf 23]
 ffor loue / and for encrees of chiualrye 2184
 Aboute this kyng ther ran on euery part
 fful many a tame leon / and leopard
 And in this wise / thise lordes alle and some
 Been on the Sonday to the Citee come 2188
 Aboute pryme / and in the toun alight
 ¶ This Theseus / this duc this worthy knyght
 Whan he had broght hem / in to his Citee
 And Inned hem / euerich in his degree 2192
 He festeth hem / and dooth so greet labour
 To esen hem / and doon hem al honour
 That yet men weneth / þat no maner wit
 Of noon estaat ne koude amenden it 2196
 ¶ The Mynstralcy / the seruice / at the feeste
 The grete yiftes / to the meeste and leeste
 The riche array / of Theseus paleys
 Ne who sat first ne last vp on the deys 2200
 What ladyes fairest been / or best daunsynge
 Or which of hem / kan dauncen best and synge
 Ne who moost felyngly speketh of loue
 What haukes / sitten on the perche aboue 2204
 What houndes / liggen in the floor adoun
 Of al this / make I now no mencion
 But al theeffect that thynketh me the beste
 Now cometh the point and herkneth if yow leste 2208
 The sonday nyght er day bigan to sprynge
 ¶ Whan Palamon / the larke herde synge
 Al though it nere nat day / by houres two
 Yet song the larke / and Palamon also 2212
 With hooly herte / and with an heigh corage

He roos / to wenden on his pilgrymage
 Vn to the blisful Citherea benigne
 I mene Venus / honorable and digne 2216
 And in hir houre / he walketh forth a paas
 Vn to the lystes / ther hire temple was
 And doun he kneleth / with ful humble cheer
 And herte soor / and seyde in this manere 2220
 Faireste of faire / o lady myn Venus
 Doughter to Ioue / and spouse of Vulcanus ¶ The preyere
 Thow gladere / of the Mount of Citheron ¶ of Palamon).
 ffor thilke loue / thow haddest to Adoon ¶ to Venus
 2224 goddesse of loue.
 Haue pitee / of my bittre teeris smerte
 And taak myn humble preyere at thyn herte
 Allas / I ne haue / no langage to telle
 Theeffectes / ne the tormentz of myn helle 2228
 Myn herte / may myne harmes nat biwreye
 I am so confus / that I kan noght seye
 But mercy lady bright that knowest weele [leaf 28, back]
 My thought and seest what harmes þat I feele 2232
 Considere al this / and rewe vp on my soore
 As wisly / as I shal for eueremoore
 Emforth my myght thy trewe seruant be
 And holden werre / alwey with chastitee 2236
 That make I myn auow / so ye me helpe
 I kepe noght of Armes for to yelpe
 Ne I ne axe nat tomorwe to haue victorie
 Ne renoun in this cas / ne veyne glorie 2240
 Of pris of Armes / blowen vp and doun
 But I wolde haue / fully possessioun
 Of Emelye / and dye in thy seruyse
 ffynd thow the manere / hou and in what wyse 2244
 I recche nat / but it may bettre be
 To haue victorie of hem / or they of me
 So that I haue / my lady in myne Armes
 ffor though so be / that Mars is god of Armes 2248
 Youre vertu is so greet in heuene aboue

That if yow list I shal wel haue my loue
 ¶ Thy temple wol I worshipe eueremo
 And on thyn Auter / where I ride or go 2252
 I wol doon sacrifice / and fires beete
 And if ye wol nat so / my lady sweete
 Thanne preye I thee / tomorwe / with a spere
 That Arcita / me thurgh the herte bere 2256
 Thanne rekke I noght / whan I haue lost my lyf
 Though that Arcita / wynne hire to his wyf
 This is the effect and ende of my preyere
 Yif me my loue / thow blisful lady deere 2260
 ¶ Whan the orison / was doon of Palamon
 His sacrifice he dide / and that anon
 fful pitously / with alle circumstaunce
 Al telle I noght as now / his obseruaunce 2264
 But atte laste / the statue of Venus shook /
 And made a signe / wher by pat he took
 That his preyere / accepted was that day
 ffor thogh the signe / shewed a delay 2268
 Yet wiste he wel / pat graunted was his boone
 And with glad herte / he wente hym hoom ful soone
 The thridde houre in-equal that Palamon
 T Bigan / to Venus temple for to gon 2272
 Vp roos the sonne / and vp roos Emelye
 And to the temple of Dyane gan hye
 Hir maydens / pat she thider with hire ladde
 fful redily / with hem the fyr they ladde 2276
 Thencens / the clothes / and the remenant al
 That to the sacrifice / longen shal
 The hornes fulle of Meeth / as was the gyse [leaf 29]
 Ther lakked noght to doon hir sacrificise 2280
 ¶ Smokyng the temple / ful of clothes faire
 This Emelye / with herte debonaire
 Hir body wessh / with water of a welle
 But hou she dide hir ryte / I dar nat telle 2284
 But it be / any thing in general

And yet^t it were a game / to heeren al
 To hym þat meneth wel / it were no charge
 But it is good / a man been at his large 2288
 ¶ Hir brighte heer was kempd^t vntressed al
 A coroune / of a grene ook / cerial
 Vp on hir heed was set^t ful fair and meete
 Two fyres / on the auter / gan she beete 2292
 And dide hir thynges / as men may biholde
 In Stace of Thebes / and thise bookes olde
 Whan kyndled was the fyr / with pitous cheere
 Vn to Dyane / she spak^t as ye may heere 2296
 O chaste goddesse / of the wodes grene ¶ The preyere
 To whom bothe heuene *and* erthe *and* see is sene of Emelye / to
 Queene of the regne of Pluto derk / and lowe dyane goddesse
 Goddesse of maydens / that myn herte hast knowe 2300 of Maydens.
 fful many a yeer / and woost what I desire
 As keepe me / fro thy vengeance and thyn Ire
 That Attheon / aboughte cruelly
 Chaste goddesse / wel wostow þat I 2304
 Desire / to ben a mayden al my lyf^t
 Ne neuere wol I be no loue ne wyf^t
 I am thow woost^t yet of thy compaignye
 A mayde / and loue huntynge and venerye 2308
 And for to walken / in the wodes wilde
 And noght to ben a wyf / and be with childe
 Noght wol I knowe / the compaignye of man
 Now helpe me lady / sith ye may and kan 2312
 ffor tho thre formes / þat thou hast in thee
 And Palamon / that hath swich loue to me
 And eek Arcite / that loueth me so soore
 This grace I preye thee with oute moore 2316
 And sende loue and pees / bitwixe hem two
 And fro me / turne away hir hertes so
 That al hire hote loue / and hir desir
 And al hir bisy torment^t and hir fir 2320
 Be queynt^t or turned / in another place

And if so be / thou wolt do me no grace
 And if my destynee / be shapen so
 That I shal nedes haue oon of hem two 2324
 As sende me hym / þat moost desireth me
 Bihoold goddesse / of clene chastitee
 The bittre teeris / that on my chekes falle [leaf 29, back]
 Syn thou art mayde / and kepere of vs alle 2328
 My maydenhede thou kepe and wel conserue
 And whil I lyue / a mayde I wol thee serue
 ¶ The fires brenne / vp on the Auter cleere
 Whil Emelye / was thus in hir preyere 2332
 But sodeynly / she saugh a sighte queynte
 ffor right anon / oon of the fyres queynte
 And quyked agayn / and after that anon
 That oother fyr was queynt and al agon 2336
 And as it queynte / it made a whistlynge
 As doon thise wete brondes in hir brennynge
 And at the brondes ende / out ran anon
 As it were / bloody dropes many oon 2340
 ffor which / so soore agast was Emelye
 That she was wel ny mad and gan to crye
 ffor she ne wiste / what it signyfyed
 But oonly for the feere / thus hath she cried 2344
 And weepe / that it was pitee for to heere
 And ther with al / Dyane gan appeere
 With bowe in honde / right as an hunteressee
 And seyde doghter / stynt thyn heuynesse 2348
 Among the goddes hye / it is affermed ¶ The answer
 And by eterne word / writen and confermed ¶ of Dyane
 ¶ to Emelye.
 Thou shalt ben wedded vn to oon of tho
 That han for thee / so muchel care and wo 2352
 But vn to which of hem / I may nat telle
 ffarwel / for I ne may no lenger dwelle
 The fires / whiche that on myn Auter brenne
 Shulle thee declare / er that thou go henne 2356
 Thyn auenture of loue / as in this cas

And with that word / the Arwes in the Caas
 Of the goddesse / clateren faste and rynge
 And forth she wente / and made a vanysshynge 2360
 ffor which / this Emelye / astoned was
 And seyde / what amounteth this Allas
 I putte me / in thy proteccioñ
 Dyane / and in thy disposicioñ 2364
 And hoom she goth anon the nexte weye
 This is theeffect ther is namoore to seye
 The nexte houre of Mars folwynge this
 Arcite / vn to the temple walked is 2368
 Of fierse Mars / to doon his sacrificise
 With alle the rytes / of his payen wyse
 With pitous herte / and heigh deuocioñ
 Right thus to Mars / he seyde his orisoñ 2372
 O stronge god / that in the regnes colde
 Of Trace / honoured art and lord yholde
 ¶ And hast in euery regne / and euery lond
 Of armes / al the brydel in thyn hond
 And hem fortunest as thee lyst deuyse
 Accepte of me / my pitous sacrificise
 If so be that my youthe may deserue
 And þat my myght be worthy for to serue 2380
 Thy godhede / þat I may been oon of thyne
 Thanne preye I thee / to rewe vp on my pyne
 ffor thilke peyne / and thilke hote fir
 In which / thou whilom brendest for desir 2384
 Whan þat thou vsedest the beautee
 Of faire yonge / fresshe Venus free
 And haddest hire / in armes at thy wille
 Al though thee ones / on a tyme mysfille 2388
 Whan Vulcanus / hadde caught thee in his las
 And foond thee liggyng / by his wyf allas
 ffor thilke sorwe / that was in thyn herte
 Haue routhe as wel / vp on my peynes smerte 2392
 I am yong and vnkonnynge as thou woost

¶ The orisoñ of
 Arcite
 ¶ to Mars god
 of Armes

[leaf 30]

And as I trowe / with loue offended moost^t
 That euere was / any lyues creature
 ffor she / þat dooth me / al this wo endure 2396
 Ne reccheth neuere / wher I synke or fleete
 And wel I woot^t er she me mercy heete
 I moot *with* strengthe / wynne hire in the place
 And wel I woot^t *withouten* helpe or grace 2400
 Of thee / ne may my strengthe noght auaille
 Thanne helpe me lord / tomorwe in my bataille
 For thilke fyr / that whilom brente thee
 As wel / as thilke fyr / now brenneth me 2404
 And do / that I tomorwe haue victorie
 Myn be the trauaille / and thyn be the glorie
 Thy souereyn temple / wol I moost honouren
 Of any place / and alwey moost labouren 2408
 In thy plesaunce / and in thy craftes stronge
 And in thy temple / I wol my baner honge
 And alle the Armes of my compaignye
 And euere mo / vn to that day I dye 2412
 Eterne fir / I wol biforn thee fynde
 And eek^t to this auow / I wol me bynde
 My beerd / myn heer / that hongeth long adoun
 That neuere yet / ne felte offensioun 2416
 Of rasour / nor of shere / I wol thee yeue
 And ben thy trewe *seruant*^t whil I lyue
 Now lord haue routhe vp on my sorwes soore
 Yif me the victorie / I aske thee namoore 2420
 The preyer stynt^t of Arcita the stronge
 The rynges / on the temple dore that honge
 And eek^t the dores / clatereden ful faste [leaf 30, back]
 Of which Arcita / som what hym agaste 2424
 The fyres brenden / vp on the Auter brighte
 That it gan / al the temple for to lighte
 And sweete smel / the ground anon vp yaf
 And Arcita / anon his hand vp haf^t 2428
 And moore encens / in to the fyr he caste

With othere rytes mo / and atte last
 The Statue of Mars / bigan his hauberk ryngge
 And *with* that soun / he herde a *murmuryng* 2432
 fful lowe and dym / and seyde thus / Victorie
 ffor which / he yaf to Mars / honour and glorie
 And thus with ioie / and hope wel to fare
 Arcite anon / vn to his In is fare 2436
 As fayn as fowel / is of the brighte sonne
 ¶ And right anon / swich strif / ther is bigonne
 For thilke grauntyng^t in the heuene aboue
 Bitwixe Venus / the goddesse of love 2440
 And Mars / the stierne god Armypotente
 That Iuppiter / was bisy it to stente
 Til that the pale / Saturnus the colde
 That knew so manye / of auentures olde 2444
 ffoond / in his olde experience and art^t
 That he ful soone / hath plesed euery part^t
 As sooth is seyde / elde hath greet auantage
 In elde / is bothe wysdom and vsage 2448
 Men may the olde at renne / and noght at rede
 Saturne anon / to stynten strif and drede
 Al be it^t that it is / agayn his kynde
 Of al this strif / he gan remedie fynde 2452
 ¶ My deere doghter Venus / quod Saturne
 My cours / that hath so wyde for to turne
 Hath moore power / than woot any man
 Myn is the drenchyng^t in the see so wan 2456
 Myn is the prison / in the derke cote
 Myn is the stranglyng^t and hangyng^t by the throte
 The *murmure* and the cherles rebellyng^t
 The groynyng^t / and the pryuee empoysonyng^t 2460
 I do vengeance / and pleyne correccioñ
 Whil[es] I dwelle / in signe of the leon
 Myn is the ruyne / of the hye halles
 The fallynge / of the toures / and of the walles 2464
 Vp on the Mynour / or the Carpenter

I slow Sampson / shakynge the piler
 And myne be / the maladyes colde
 The derke tresons / and the castes olde 2468
 My lookyng^t is the fader of pestilence
 Now weepe namoore / I shal doon diligence
 That Palamon / that is thyn owene knyght^t [leaf 31]
 Shal haue his lady / as thou hast him high^t 2472
 Though Mars shal helpe his knyght^t yet nathelees
 Bitwixe yow / ther moot be som tyme pees
 Al be ye noght^t of o compleccioñ
 That causeth al day swich diusioñ 2476
 I am thyn Aiel / redy at thy wille
 Weepe now namoore / I wol thy lust fulfille
 ¶ Now wol I stynten / of the goddes above
 Of Mars / and of Venus goddesses of love 2480
 And telle yow / as pleyñly as I kan
 The grete effect^t for which that I bygan

¶ Explicit^t tercia pars

¶ Sequitur pars quarta

Greet was the feeste / in Atthenes that day
 And eek / the lusty seson of that May 2484
 Made euery wight / to been in such plesaunce
 That al that Monday / Iusten they and daunce
 And spenten it^t in Venus heigh seruyse
 But by the cause / that they sholde ryse 2488
 Eerly / for to seen the grete fight
 Vn to hir reste / wenten they at nyght^t
 And on the morwe / whan þat day gan sprynge
 Of hors and harneys / noyse and claterynge 2492
 Ther was in the hostelryes al aboute
 And to the paleys / rood ther many a route
 Of lordes / vp on steedes and palfreys
 Ther maystow seen diuisynge of harneys 2496
 So vnkouth and so riche / and wroght so weel
 Of goldsmythrye / of browdynge / and of steel

The sheeldes brighte / testeres / and trappures
 Gold hewen helmes / hauberkes / Cote Armures 2500
 Lordes in paramentz / on hir courseres
 Knyghtes of retenue / and eek Squieres
 Nailynge the speres / and helmes bokelynge
 Giggynge of sheeldes / *with* layneres lacynge 2504
 There as nede is / they weren no thyng ydel
 The fomy steedes / on the golden brydel
 Gnawynge / and faste the Armurers also
 With fyle and hamer prikyng to and fro 2508
 Yemen on foyte / and communes many oon
 With shorte staues / thikke as they may goon
 Pypes / trompes / Nakerers / Clariounes
 That in the bataille / blowen bloody sounes 2512
 The paleys / ful of peples vp and down [leaf 31, back]
 Heere thre / ther ten / holdynge hir question
 Dyuynynge / of thise Thebane knyghtes two
 Somme seyden thus / somme seyde it shal be so 2516
 Somme helden *with* hym / *with* the blake berd
 Somme with the balled / somme *with* the thikke herd
 Somme seyde / he looked grymme / and he wolde fighte
 He hath a sparth / of twenty pound of wighte 2520
 Thus was the halle / ful of diuynynge
 Longe after / that the sonne gan to sprynge
 The grete Theseus / that of his sleepe awaked
 With Mynstralcie / and noyse þat was maked 2524
 Heeld yet the chambre / of his Paleys riche
 Til that the Thebane knyghtes / bothe yliche
 Honured / were / in to the paleys fet
 Duc Theseus / was at a wyndow set 2528
 Arrayed / right as he were a god in Trone
 The peple / preeseth thiderward ful soone
 Hym for to seen / and doon heigh reuerence
 And eek to herkne / his heste and his sentence 2532
 ¶ An heraud on a Scaffold made an Oo
 Til al the noyse of peple was ydo

And whan he saugh / the noyse of peple al stille
 Tho shewed he / the myghty dukes wille 2536
 ¶ The lord / hath of his heih discrecion
 Considered / that it were destruccioñ
 To gentil blood / to fighten in the gyse
 Of mortal bataille / now in this emprise 2540
 Wherefore / to shapen / þat they shal nat dye
 He wolde / his firste purpos modifye
 ¶ No man ther fore vp peyne of los of lyf
 No maner shot polax ne short[e] knyf 2544
 In to the lystes sende / ne thider brynge
 Ne short sword for to stoke / with poynt bitynge
 No man ne drawe / ne bere by his syde
 Ne no man shal / vn to his felawe ryde 2548
 But o cours / with a sharpe ygrounde spere
 ffoyne if hym list on foote / hym self to were
 And he / that is at meschief shal be take
 And noght slayn / but be broght vn to the stake 2552
 That shal ben ordeyned / on either syde
 But thider he shal by force / and there abyde
 ¶ And if so be / the 'chieftayn be take [1 chi-ef-]
 On outhur syde / or elles sleen his make 2556
 No lenger' shal the turneiynge laste
 God spede you / gooth forth / and ley on faste
 With long swerd / and with Maces / fighteth youre fille
 Gooth now youre wey / this is the lordes will 2560
 The voys of peple / touched the heuene [leaf 32]
 So loude cride they / with murie steuene
 God saue swich a lord / that is so good
 He wilneth no destruccion of blood 2564
 Vp goon the trompes / and the melodye
 And to the lystes / rit the compaignye
 By ordinance / thurgh out the Citee large
 Hanged with clooth of gold and nat with sarge 2568
 ¶ fful lik a lord / this noble duc gan ryde
 Thise two Thebans / vp on either side

And after rood / the queene and Emelye
 And after that another compaignye 2572
 Of oon and oother / after hir degre
 And thus they passen / thurgh out the Citee
 And to the lystes / come they by tyme
 It nas not of the day / yet fully pryme 2576
 Whan set was Theseus / ful riche and hye
 Ypolita the queene and Emelye
 And othere ladys / in degrees aboute
 Vn to the seettes preesseth al the route 2580
 And westward / thurgh the gates vnder ^{.i. sub Marte} Marte
 Arcite / and eek the hondred of his parte
 With baner reed / is entred right anon
 ¶ And in that selue moment Palamon 2584
 Is vnder Venus / Estward in the place
 With Baner whyt / and hardy chiere *and* face
 In al the world / to seken vp and doun
 So euene / with outen variacioun 2588
 Ther nere / swiche compaignyes tweye
 ffor ther was noon so wys þat koude seye
 That any hadde / of oother auauntage
 Of worthynesse / ne of estaat ne age 2592
 So euene were [they] chosen / for to gesse
 And in two renges / faire they hem dresse
 ¶ Whan þat hir names / rad were euerichon
 That in hir nombre / gyle were ther noon 2596
 Tho were the gates shet and cried was loude
 Do now youre deuoir / yonge knyghtes proude
 ¶ The heraudes / lefte hir prikyng vp and doun
 Now ryngen trompes loude and clarioun 2600
 Ther is namoore to seyn / but west and Est
 In goon the speres / ful sadly in arrest
 In gooth the sharpe spore / in to the syde
 Ther seen men / who kan Iuste *and* who kan ryde 2604
 Ther shyueren shaftes / vp on sheeldes thikke
 He feeleth / thurgh the herte spoon the prikke

Vp spryngen speres / twenty foot on highte
 Out gooth the swerdes / as the siluer brighte 2608
 The helmes they tohewen / and toshrede [leaf 32, back]
 Out brest the blood / with stierne stremes rede
 With myghty maces / the bones they tobrete
 He thurgh the thikkeste / of the throng gan threste 2612
 Ther semblen steedes stronge / and doun gooth al
 He rolleth vnder foot as dooth a bal
 He foyneth on his feet with his tronchon
 And he hym hurtleth / with his hors adoun 2616
 He thurgh the body is hurt and sithen ytake
 Maugree his heed / and broght vn to the stake
 As forward was right ther he moste abyde
 Another lad is / on that oother syde 2620
 ¶ And som tyme / dooth hem Theseus to reste
 Hem to fresshen / and drynken if hem leste
 fful ofte a day / han thise Thebanes two
 Togydre ymet and wroght his felawe wo 2624
 Vnhorsed hath / ech oother of hem tweye
 Ther nas no Tygre in the vale of Galgopheye
 Whan þat hir whelpe is stole / whan it is lite
 So crueel on the hunte / as is Arcite 2628
 ffor Ielous herte / vpon this Palamon
 Ne in Belmarye / ther nys so fel leon
 That hunted is / or for his hunger wood
 Ne of his praye / desireth so the blood 2632
 As Palamon / to sleen his foo Arcite
 The Ielous strokes / on hir helmes byte
 Out renneth blood / on bothe hir sydes rede
 ¶ Som tyme an ende / ther is of euery dede 2636
 ffor er the sonne / vn to the reste wente
 The stronge kyng Emetreus / gan hente
 This Palamon / as he faught with Arcite
 And made his swerd / depe in his flessch to byte 2640
 And by the force of twenty / is he take
 Vnyolden / and ydrawe vnto the stake

And in the rescus / of this Palamon
 The stronge kyng^t lygurge / is born adoun 2644
 And kyng^t Emetreus / for al his strengthe
 Is born out of his sadel / a swerdes lengthe
 So hitte him Palamon^d er he were take
 But al for noght^t / he was broght^t to the stake 2648
 His hardy herte / myghte hym helpe naught^t
 He moste abyde / whan that he was caught^t
 By force / and eek by composicioñ
 ¶ Who sorweth now / but woful Palamon 2652
 That moot namoore / goon agayn to fighte
 And whan þat Theseus / hadde seyn this sighte
 Vn to the folk / þat foghten thus echon
 He cryde / hoo namoore / for it is doon 2656
 ¶ I wol be trewe Iuge / and no partie [leaf 33]
 Arcite of Thebes / shal haue Emelie
 That by his fortune / hath hire faire ywonne
 Anon / ther is a noyse of peple bigonne 2660
 ffor Ioye of this / so loude and heighe *with* alle
 It semed / that the lystes sholde falle
 What kan now faire venus doon aboue
 What seith she now / what dooth this queene of loue
 But wepeth so / for wantynge of hir wille
 Til that hir teeres / in the lystes fille
 She seyde / I am ashamed doutelees
 ¶ Saturnus seyde / doghter hoold thy pees 2668
 Mars hath his wille / his knyght^t hath al his boone
 And by myn heed / thou shalt been esed soone
 The trompes / with the loude Mynstralcie
 The heraudes / that ful loude yolle and crie 2672
 Been in hire wele / for Ioye of Daun Arcite
 But herkneþ me / and stynteth now a lite
 Which a myracle / ther bifel anon
 ¶ This fierse Arcite / hath of his helm ydon 2676
 And on a Courser / for to shewe his face
 He priketh endelong^t the large place

Lokyng vpward vp on Emelye
 And she agayn / hym caste a freendlich eye 2680
 [.
 *no gap in the MS.*]
 And was al his [in] chiere / as in his herte
 ¶ Out of the ground / a furie Infernal sterte 2684
 ffrom Pluto sent at requeste of Saturne
 ffor which his hors / for fere gan to turne
 And leepe aside / and foundred as he leepe
 And er that Arcite / may taken keepe 2688
 He pighte hym / on the pomel of his heed ¶ *Nota periculum.*
 That in the place he lay / as he were deed
 His brest tobrosten / with his sadel bowe
 As blak he lay / as any cole or crowe 2692
 So was the blood / yronnen in his face
 Anon he was / yborn out of the place
 With herte soor / to Theseus paleys
 Tho was he koruen / out of his harneys 2696
 And in a bed ybrought / ful faire and blyve
 ffor he was yet in memorie / and alyue
 And alwey / crynge after Emelye
 ¶ Duc Theseus / with al his compaignye 2700
 Is comen hoom / to Atthenes his Citee
 With alle blisse / and greet solempnitee
 Al be it that this Auenture was falle
 He nolde noght disconforten hem alle 2704
 Men seyde eek that Arcite shal nat dye
 He shal been heeled / of his maladye
 ¶ And of another thyng / they weren as fayn [leaf 33, back]
 That of hem alle / was ther noon yslayn 2708
 Al were they soore yhurt and namely oon
 That with a spere / was thirled his brest boon
 To othere woundes / and to broken armes
 Somme hadden salues / and somme hadden charmes 2712
 ffermacies of herbes / and eek saue
 They dronken / for they wolde hir lymes haue

ffor which this noble duc^t as he wel kan
 Conforteth / and honoureth euery man 2716
 And made reuel / al the longe nyght^t
 Vn to the straunge lordes / as was right^t
 Ne ther was holden / no disconfitynge
 But as a Iustes / or a tourneyng 2720
 ffor soothly / ther was no disconfiture
 ffor fallyng / nys nat but an Auenture
 Ne to be lad by force / vn to the stake
 Vnyolden / and with twenty knyghtes take 2724
 O persone allone with outen mo
 And haryed forth / by Arm[e] / foot^t and too
 And eke his steede / dryuen forth with staues
 With footmen / bothe yemen and eek knaues 2728
 It nas aretted hym no vileynye
 Ther may no man / clepen it cowardye
 ¶ ffor which anon / duc Theseus leet crye
 To stynten / alle rancour and enuye 2732
 The gree / as wel of o syde as of oother
 And eyther syde ylik^t as ootheres brother
 And yaf hem yiftes / after hir degree
 And fully / heeld a feeste / dayes three 2736
 And conuoyed / the kynges worthily
 Out of his toun / a Iournee largely
 And hoom wente euery man the righte way
 Ther was namoore / but fare wel / haue good day 2740
 Of this bataille / I wol namoore endite
 But speke of Palamon and of Arcyte
 Swelleth the brest of arcite / and the soore
 Encreesseth at his herte / moore and moore 2744
 The clothered blood / for any lechecraft^t
 Corrupteth / and is in his bouk ylaft^t
 That neither veyne blood / ne ventusyng
 Ne drynke of herbes / may ben his helpynge 2748
 The vertu expulsif / or Animal
 ffro thilke vertu / cleped natural

Ne may the venym / voyden ne expelle
 The pipes of his longes / gonne to swelle 2752
 And euery lacerte / in his brest adoun
 Is shent^t with venym and corrupcion
 Hym gayneth neither for to gete his lif^t [leaf 34]
 Vomyt vpward / ne downward laxatif^t 2756
 Al is tobrosten / thilke Regioun
 Nature hath now / no dominacioun
 And certainly / ther Nature wol nat wirche
 ffare wel Phisik^t go ber the man to chirche 2760
 This al and som / that Arcita moot dye
 ffor which / he sendeth / after Emelye
 And Palamon / that was his cosyn deere
 Thanne seyde he thus / as ye shal after heere 2764
 ¶ Naught may / the woful spirit in myn herte
 Declare o point^t of alle my sorwes smerte
 To yow my lady / that I loue moost^t
 But I biquethe / the seruyce of my goost^t 2768
 To yow / abouen euery creature
 Syn þat my lyf / [it] may no lenger dure
 Allas the wo / allas the peynes stronge
 That I for yow haue suffred / and so longe 2772
 Allas the deeth / allas myn Emelye
 Allas / departynge of our compaignye
 Allas myn hertes queene / allas my wyf^t
 Myn hertes lady / endere of my lyf/ 2776
 What is this world / what asketh men to haue
 Now with his loue / now in his colde graue
 Allone / with outen any compaignye
 ffare wel / my swete foo / myn Emelye 2780
 And softe taak me / in youre Armes tweye
 ffor loue of god / and herkneth what I seye
 I haue heer / with my cosyn Palamon
 Had strif and rancour/ many a day agon 2784
 ffor loue of yow / and for my Ialousye
 And Iuppiter / so wys my soule gye

To speken / of a seruañt proprely
 With alle circumstances trewely 2788
 That is to seyn / trouthe / honour knyghthede
 Wysdom / humblesse / estaat and heigh kynrede
 ffredom / and al that longeth to that Art
 So Iuppiter / haue of my soule part 2792
 As in this world / right now ne knowe I non
 So worthy to ben loued as Palamon
 That serueth yow / and wol doon al his lyf
 And if that euere / ye shul ben a wyf 2796
 fforyet nat Palamon / the gentil man
 And *with* that word / his speche faille gan
 And from his herte / vp to his brest was come
 The coold of deeth / that hadde hym ouercome 2800
 And yet moore ouer / for in hise Armes two
 The vital strengthe is lost / and al ago
 Oonly / the intellect with outen moore [leaf 34, back]
 That dwelled in his herte / syk and soore 2804
 Gan faillen / when the herte felte deeth
 Dusked hise eyen two / and failed breeth
 But on his lady yet caste he his eye
 His laste word / was mercy Emelye 2808
 His spirit chaunged hous / and wente ther
 As I cam neuere / I kan nat tellen wher
 Therefore I stynte / I nam no diuinistre
 Of soules / fynde I nat in this Registre 2812
 Ne me ne list thilke opinions to telle
 Of hem / though þat they writen wher they dwelle
 Arcite is coold / ther Mars his soule gye
 Now wol I speken forth of Emelye 2816
 Shrighte Emelye / and howleth Palamon
 And Theseus / his suster took anon
 Swownynge / and baar hire fro the corps away
 What helpeth it to tarien forth the day 2820
 To tellen how she weepe / bothe eue and morwe
 ffor in swich cas / wommen haue swich sorwe

Whan þat hir housbond / is from hem ago
 That for the moore part they sorwen so 2824
 Or ellis / fallen in swich maladye
 That at the laste / certainly they dye
 ¶ Infinite / been the sorwes and the teeres
 Of olde folk / and eek of tendre yeeres 2828
 In al the toun / for deeth of this Theban
 ffor hym ther wepeth / bothe child and man
 So greet a wepyngt was ther noon certayn
 Whan Ector was ybroght / al fressh yslayn 2832
 To Troye / allas the pitee þat was ther
 Cracchyng of chekes / rentyng eek of heer
 Why woldestow be deed / thise wommen crye
 And haddest gold ynough / and Emelye 2836
 ¶ No man / myghte gladen Theseus
 Sauynge / his olde fader Egeus
 That knew / this worldes transmutaciō
 As he hadde / seyn it / vp and down 2840
 Ioye after wo / and wo after gladnesse
 And shewed / hem ensamples and liknesse
 Right as ther / dyed neuere man quod he ¶ Argumentum
 That he ne lyuede in erthe / in som degree 2844
 Right so / ther lyuede neuer man he seyde
 In al this world / þat som tyme he ne deyde
 This world / nys but a thurghfare ful of wo
 And we been pilgrymes / passynge to and fro 2848
 Deeth is an ende / of euery worldes soore
 And ouer al this / yet seyde he muchel moore
 To this effect ful wisely / to enhorten [leaf 35]
 The peple / that they sholde hem reconforte 2852
 Duc Theseus / with al his bisy cure
 Cast now / wher that the sepulture
 Of goode Arcite / may best ymaked be
 And eek most honorable in his degree 2856
 And at the laste / he took conclusiō
 That ther as first Arcite and Palamoñ

Hadden for loue / the bataille hem bitwene
 That in that selue groue / swoote and grene 2860
 Ther as he hadde / hise amoureuse desires
 His compleynte / and for loue hise hote fires
 He wolde make a fyr / in which the office
 funeral / he mygh̃te al accomplice 2864
 And leet comande anon / to hakke and hewe
 The okes olde / and leye hem on a rewe
 In colpons / wel arrayed for to brenne
 Hise Officers / with swifte feet they renne 2868
 And ryden anon / at his comandement
 And after / this / Theseus hath ysent
 After a beere / and it al ouer spradde
 With clooth of gold / the richeste / þat he hadde 2872
 And of the same suyte / he cladde Arcite
 Vp on his hondes / hadde he gloues white
 Eek on his heed / a coroune of laurer grene
 And in his hond / a swerd ful bright and kene 2876
 He leyde hym bare the visage / on the beere
 Ther-with he weepe / that pitee was to heere
 And for the peple / sholde seen hym alle
 Whan it was day / he broghte hym to the halle 2880
 That roreth / of the cryng̃ and the soun
 ¶ Tho cam this woful Theban Palamon
 With flotery berd / and rugged ass̃hy heeres
 In clothes blake / ydropped al with teeres 2884
 And passynge othere / of wepyng̃e Emelye
 The rewefulleste / of al the compaignye
 [And] In as muche / as the seruyce sholde be
 The moore noble / and riche in his degree 2888
 Duc Thescus / leet forth thre steedes brynge
 That trapped were in steel al gliterynge
 And couered with the armes of daun Arcite
 Vp on thise steedes / grete and white 2892
 Ther sitten folk̃ of whiche oon baar his sheeld̃
 Another his spere / in his hondes heeld̃

The thridde baar with hym / his bowe Turkeys
 Of brend gold / was the caas / and eek the harneys 2896
 And riden forth a paas / with sorweful cheere
 Toward the groue / as ye shul after heere
 The nobleste of tne grekes / that ther were [leaf 35, back]
 Vp on hir shuldres / caryeden the beere 2900
 With slak paas / and eyen rede and wete
 Thurgh out the Citee / by the maister strete
 That sprad was al with blak' / and wonder hye
 Right of the same / is the strete ywrye 2904
 Vp on the right hond / wente olde Egeus
 And on that oother syde / duc Theseus
 With vessel in hir hand / of gold ful fyn
 Al ful of hony / Milk' and blood and wyn 2908
 Eek Palamon / with ful greet compaignye
 And after that / cam woful Emelye
 With fyr in honde / as was that tyme the gyse
 To do the office / of funeral seruyse 2912
 Heigh labour' and ful greet apparaillynge
 Was at the seruice / and the fyr makynge
 That with his grene tope / the heuen [raughte]
 And twenty fadme of brede / the armes straughte 2916
 This is to seyn / the bowes weren so brode
 Of stree first' ther was leyd ful many a lode
 But how the fyr / was maked vp on highte
 And eek' the names / that the trees highte 2920
 As ook' / firre / birch / Aspe / Alder / holm / popeler
 Wylugh / Elm / plane / Assh / box / chasteyn / lynde / laurer
 Mapul / thorn / bech / hasel / Ew / whippeltre
 How they weren fild' / shal nat be toold for me 2924
 Ne hou the goddes ronnen vp and down
 Disherited / of hire habitacioun
 In whiche they woneden / in reste and pees
 Nymphus / ffawnes / and Amadrides 2928
 Ne hou the beestes / and the briddes alle
 fledden for fere / whan the wode was falle

Ne how the ground / agast was of the light
 That was nat wont to seen the sonne bright 2932
 Ne how the fyr / was couched first with stree
 And thanne with drye stokkes / clouen a thre
 And thanne with grene wode and spicerye
 And thanne with clooth of gold / and with perrye 2936
 And gerlandes / hangynge / with ful many a flour
 The Mirre / thencens / with al so greet odour
 Ne how Arcite / lay among al this
 Ne what richesse / aboute his body is 2940
 Ne how that Emelye / as was the gyse
 Putte in the fyr / of funeral seruyse
 Ne how she swowned / whan men made fyr
 Ne what she spak ne what was hir desire 2944
 Ne what Ieweles / men in the fyre caste
 Whan þat the fyr was greet and brente faste
 ¶ Ne how somme caste hir sheeld / and somme hir spere [1136]
 And of hire vestimentz / whiche þat they were 2948
 And coppes full of wyn / and Milk and blood
 In to the fyr / that brente / as it were wood
 Ne how the grekes / with an huge route
 Tries riden / al the place aboute 2952
 Vp on the left hand / with a loud shoutynge
 And thries / with hir speres claterynge
 And thries / how the ladyes gonne crye
 And how / þat lad was homward Emelye 2956
 Ne how Arcite / is brent to asshen colde
 Ne / how that lych wake / was yholde
 Al thilke nyght / ne how the grekes pleye
 The wake pleyes / ne kepe I nat to seye 2960
 Who wrastleth best naked / with oille enoynt
 Ne who that baar hym best in no disioynt
 ¶ I wol nat tellen eek how that they goon
 Hoom til Atthenes / whan the pley is doon 2964
 But shortly to the point thanne wol I wende
 And maken / of my longe tale an ende

By processe / and by lengthe of certeyn yeres
 Al styntyd is / the moornynge *and* the teres 2968
 Of grekes / by oon general assent
 Thanne semed me / ther was a parlement
 At Atthenes / vpon certein poyntz and caas
 Among^t the whiche poyntz / yspoken was 2972
 To haue with certein contrees alliaunce
 And have fully of Thebans obeissaunce
 ffor which / this noble Theseus anon
 Leet senden / after gentil Palamon 2976
 Vnwist^t of hym / what was the cause and why
 But^t in hise blake clothes / sorwefully
 He cam / at his comandement^t in hye
 Tho sente / Theseus for Emelye 2980
 Whan they were set^t and hust was al the place
 And Thesens / abiden hadde a space
 Er any word / cam fram his wise brest^t
 Hise eyen sette he / ther as was his lest^t 2984
 And with a sad visage / he siked stille
 And after that^t right thus he seyde his wille
 The firste moeuere of the cause aboue
 T Whan he first made / the faire cheyne of loue 2988
 Greet was theeffect^t and heigh was his entente
 Wel wiste he why / and what ther of he mente
 ffor with that faire cheyne of loue he bond^t
 The fyr / the eyr / the water and the lond^t 2992
 In certeyn boundes / that they may nat flee
 That same prince / and that same moeuere quod he
 Hath stablissed / in this wrecched world adoun [leaf 36, back]
 Certeyne dayes / and duracioun 2996
 To al / that is engendrid in this place
 Ouer the which[e] day / they may nat pace
 Al mowe they yet^t tho dayes wel abregge
 Ther nedeth noght^t noon Auctoritee allegge 3000
 ffor it is preeued / by experience
 But that me list^t declaren my sentence

Thanne may men / by this ordre wel discernen
 That thilke moeuere / stable is and eterne 3004
 Wel may men knowe / but it be a fool
 That euery part^r dirryueth from his hool
 ffor nature / hath taken his bigynnyng^r
 Of no partie / or of cantel of a thyng^r 3008
 But of a thyng^r that parfit is and stable
 Descendynge so / til it be corrumpable
 And therefore / of his wise purueiaunce
 He hath / so wel biset^r his ordinaunce 3012
 That spesces of thynges / and progression^s
 Shullen enduren / by succession^s
 And nat eterne / with outen any lye
 This maystow vnderstonde / and seen it eye 3016
Loo the ook / þat hath so long^r a norisshynge ¶ Exemplum
 ffrom tyme / þat it first^r bigynneth sprynge
 And hath so long a lif / as we may see
 Yet at the laste / wasted is the tree 3020
 ¶ Considereth eek^r how that the harde stoon ¶ Exemplum
 Vnder oure feet^r on which we trede and goon
 Yit wasteth it^r as it lyth by the weye
 The brode Ryuer / somtyme wexeth dreye 3024
 The grete toures / se we wane and wende
 Thanne may ye se / þat al this thyng^r hath ende
 ¶ Of man and womman / seen we wel also
 That nedeth / in oon of thise termes two 3028
 This is to seyn / in youthe / or elles age
 He moot be deed / the kyng^r as shal a page
 Som in his bed / som in the depe see
 Som in the large feeld / as men may se 3032
 Ther helpeth noght^r al goth that ilke weye
 Thanne may I seyn^r / al this thyng^r moot deye [1 se-yn]
 ¶ What maketh this / but Iuppiter the kyng^r
 That is prince / and cause of alle thyng^r 3036
 Conuertynge al / vn to his propre welle
 ffrom which it is dirryued / sooth to telle

And here agayns / no creature on lyue
 Of no degree / auailleth for to stryue 3040
 ¶ Thanne is it wysdom / as it thynketh me
 To maken vertu of necessitee
 ¶ And take it weel / that we may nat eschue [leaf 37]
 And namely / that to vs alle is due 3044
 And who so gruccheth ought he dooth folye
 And rebel is / to hym that al may gye
 And certainly / a man hath moost honour
 To dyen / in his excellence and flour 3048
 Whan he is siker / of his goode name
 Thanne hath he doon / his freend ne hym no shame
 And gladder / oghte his freend been of his deeth
 Whan with honour / vp yolden is his breeth 3052
 Than whan his name / apalled is for age
 ffor al forgotten / is his vassellage
 Thanne is it best as for a worthy fame
 To dyen / whan þat he is best of name 3056
 ¶ The contrarie of al this / is wilfulnesse
 Why grucchen we / why haue we heuynesse
 That goode Arcite / of Chiualrie flour
 Departed is / with duetee and honour 3060
 Out of this foule prison of this lyf
 Why grucchen heere / his cosyn and his wyf
 Of his wel fare / that loued hem so weel
 Kan he hem thank? nay god woot neuer a deel 3064
 That bothe his soule / and eek hem self offende
 And yet they mowe / hir lustes nat amende
 What may I concluden / of this longe serye
 But after wo / I rede vs to be merye 3068
 And thanken Iuppiter / of al his grace
 And er that we / departen from this place
 I rede [that] we make / of sorwes two
 O parfit ioye / lastynge eueremo 3072
 And looketh now / wher moost sorwe is her inne
 Ther wol we first amenden and bigynne

Suster quod he / this is my fulle assent
 With all thavys / heere of my parlement 3076
 That gentil Palamon / thyn owene knyght
 That serueth yow / with wille / herte / and myght
 And euere hath doon / syn þat ye first hym knewe
 That ye shul of your grace / vp on hym rewe 3080
 And taken hym / for housbonde and for lord
 Leue¹ me youre hond / for this is oure accord [1 or Lene]
 Lat se now / of youre wommanly pitee
 He is a kynges brother sone pardee 3084
 And though he were / a poure bacheler
 Syn he hath serued yow / so many a yeer
 And had for yow / so greet Aduersitee
 It moste been considered / leueth me 3088
 ffor gentil mercy / oghte to passen right
 ¶ Thanne seyde he thus / to Palamon ful right
 I trowe / ther nedeth litel sermonyng [leaf 37, back]
 To make yow / assente to this thyng 3092
 Com neer / and taak youre lady by the hond
 Bitwixen hem / was maad anon the bond
 That highte matrimoigne / or mariage
 By al the conseil / and the Baronage 3096
 ¶ And thus / with alle blisse and melodye
 Hath Palamon / ywedded Emelye
 And god / þat al this wyde world hath wroght
 Sende hym his loue / that it deere aboght 3100
 ffor now is Palamon / in alle wele
 Lyuyng in blisse / in richesse and in heele
 And Emelye / hym loueth so tendrely
 And he hire / serueth so gentilly 3104
 That neuere / was ther no word hem bitwene
 Of Ialousie / or any oother tene
 Thus endeth Palamon and Emelye
 And God saue / al this faire compaignye Amen 3108
 ¶ Heere is ended the knyghtes tale 𐀀

XXIII. Odd Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. two MS fragments of 'The Parliament of Foules;' 2. the two differing versions of 'The Prologue to the Legende of Good Women,' arranged so as to show their differences; 3. an Appendix of Poems attributed to Chaucer, 1. 'The Balade of Pitee by Chauciers;' 2. 'The Cronycle made by Chaucer,' both from MSS written by Shirley, Chaucer's contemporary.

XXIV. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, being the best Text from the Parallel-Text Edition, Part I, containing, I. The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse, II. The Compleynt to Pite, III. The Parliament of Foules, IV. The Compleynt of Mars, V. The ABC, with its original from De DeGuilleville's *Pèlerinage de la Vie humaine* (edited from the best Paris MSS by M. Paul Meyer).

The issue for 1872, in the **First Series**, is,

XXV. Chaucer's Tale of Melibe, the Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, with the remaining 13 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS, and with Specimens of the Variations of 30 MSS in the Doctor-Pardoner Link. (6-Text, Pt IV.)

XXVI. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Ellesmere MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)

XXVII. The Wife's, Friar's, Summoner's, Monk's, and Nun's-Priest's Tales, from the Hengwrt MS, with 23 woodcuts of the Tellers of the Tales. (Part III.)

XXVIII. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Cambridge MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)

XXIX. A Treatise on the Astrolabe, addressed to his son Lowys, in 1391 A.D., by Geoffrey Chaucer, edited by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A.

The issue for 1873, in the **First Series**, is,

XXX. The Six-Text Canterbury Tales, Part V, containing the Clerk's and Merchant's Tales.

The issue for 1874, in the **First Series** (ready in June 1873), is,

XXXI. The Six-Text, Part VI, containing the Squire's and Franklin's Tales.

XXXII to XXXVI. Large Parts of the separate issues of five MSS.

The issue for 1875, in the **First Series** (ready in September 1873), is,

XXXVII. The Six-Text, Part VII, the Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, and Manciple's Tales, with the Blank-Parson Link.

XXXVIII to XLIII. Large Parts of the separate issues of the Six MSS, bringing all up to the Parson's Tale.

XLIV. A detailed Comparison of the *Troilus and Cryseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filosttrato*, with a Translation of all Passages used by Chaucer, and an Abstract of the Parts not used, by W. Michael Rossetti, Esq., and with a print of the *Troilus* from the Harleian MS 3943. Part I.

XLV, XLVI. Ryme-Index to the Ellesmere MS of the Canterbury Tales, by Henry Cromie, Esq., M.A. Both in Royal 4to for the *Six-Text*, and in 8vo for the separate Ellesmere MS.

For 1876, Part VIII of the Six-Text edition, containing the Parson's Tale, and completing the *Canterbury Tales*, is in the Press for the First Series; and for 1877, Part 2 of Chaucer's Minor Poems, completing them. Prof. Hiram Corson is making an Index to the Subjects and Names of *The Canterbury Tales*. He has also agreed to edit the Society's *Chaucer Concordance*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1868 is,

1. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part I. This work includes an amalgamation of Prof. F. J. Child's two Papers on the use of the final *-e* by Chaucer (in T. Wright's ed. of *The Canterbury Tales*) and by Gower (in Dr Pauli's ed. of the *Confessio Amantis*).

2. Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part I.: 1. Prof. Ebert's Review of Sandras's *Etude sur Chaucer*, translated by J. W. van Rees Hoets, M.A.; 2. A 13th-century Latin Treatise on the *Chilindre* (of the *Shipman's Tale*), edited by Mr E. Brock.

3. A Temporary Preface to the Society's Six-Text edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Part I, attempting to show the right Order of the Tales; and the Days and Stages of the Pilgrimage, &c. &c., by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1869 is,

4. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part II.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1870 is,

5. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part III.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for 1871 is,

6. Trial-Forewords to my Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Minor Poems* for the Chaucer Society (with a try to set Chaucer's Works in their right order of Time), by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I. (This Part brings-out, for the first time, Chaucer's long early but hopeless love.)

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1872** is,

7. Originals and Analogues of some of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part I. 1. The original of the *Man of Law's Tale* of Constance, from the French Chronicle of Nicholas Trivet, Arundel MS 56, ab. 1340 A.D., collated with the later copy, ab. 1400, in the National Library at Stockholm; copied and edited, with a translation, by Mr Edmund Brock. 2. The Tale of "Merelaus the Emperor," from the Early-English version of the *Gesta Romanorum* in Harl. MS 7333; and 3. Part of Matthew Paris's *Vita Offæ Primi*, both stories illustrating incidents in the *Man of Law's Tale*. 4. Two French Fabliaux like the *Reeve's Tale*. 5. Two Latin Stories like the *Friar's Tale*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1873** is,

8. Albertano of Brescia's *Liber Consilii et Consolationis*, A.D. 1246 (the Latin source of the French original of Chaucer's *Melibe*), edited from the MSS, by Dr Thor Sundby.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1874** is,

9. Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part II.: 3. John of Hoveden's *Practica Chilindri*, edited from the MS, with a translation, by Mr E. Brock. 4. Chaucer's use of the final -e, by Joseph Payne, Esq. 5. Mrs E. Barrett-Browning on Chaucer: being those parts of her review of the *Book of the Poets*, 1842, which relate to him; here reprinted by leave of Mr Robert Browning. 6. Professor Bernhard Ten-Brink's critical edition of Chaucer's *Compleynte to Pite*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1875** is,

10. Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part II. 6. Alphon-sus of Lincoln, a Story like the *Prioress's Tale*. 7. How Reynard caught Chanticleer, the source of the *Nun's-Priest's Tale*. 8. Two Italian Stories, and a Latin one, like the *Pardoner's Tale*. 9. The Tale of the Priest's Bladder, a story like the *Summoner's Tale*, being 'Li dis de le Vescie a Prestre,' par Jakes de Basiw. 10. Petrarch's Latin Tale of Griseldis (with Boccaccio's Story from which it was re-told), the original of the *Clerk's Tale*. 11. Five Versions of a Pear-tree Story like that in the *Merchant's Tale*. 12. Four Versions of The Life of Saint Cecilia, the original of the *Second Nun's Tale*.

11. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part IV.

12. Life-Records of Chaucer, Part I, The Robberies of Chaucer by Richard Brerelay and others at Westminster, and at Hatcham, Surrey, on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1390, with some Account of the Robbers, from the Enrolments in the Public Record Office, by Walford D. Selby, Esq., of the Public Record Office.

13. Thynne's Animadversions (1599) on Speght's *Chaucers Workes*, re-edited from the unique MS, by Fredk. J. Furnivall, with fresh Lives of William and Francis Thynne, and the only known fragment of *The Pilgrims Tale*.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1876** is,

14. Life-Records of Chaucer, Part II, The Household Ordinances of King Edward II, June 1323 (as englisht by Francis Tate in March 1601 A.D.), with extracts from those of King Edward IV, to show the probable duties of CHAUCER as Valet or Yeoman of the Chamber, and Esquire, to Edward III, of whose Household Book no MS is known; together with Chaucer's Oath as Controller of the Customs; and an enlargd Autotype of Hoccleve's Portrait of Chaucer; edited by F. J. Furnivall.

15. Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part III. 13. The Story of Constance, for the *Man of Law's Tale*. 14. The Boy killd by a Jew for singing 'Gaude Maria,' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*. 15. The Paris Beggar-boy murderd by a Jew for singing 'Alma redemptoris mater!' an Analogue of the *Prioress's Tale*; with a Poem by Lydgate.

16. *Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works*, Part III. 7. Chaucer's Prioress, her Nun Chaplain and 3 Priests, illustrated from the Paper Survey of St Mary's Abbey, Winchester, by F. J. Furnivall. 8. Alliteration in Chaucer, by Dr Paul Lindner. 9. Chaucer a Wicliffite; a critical Examination of the *Parsons Tale*, by Herr Hugo Simon. 10. The sources of the Wife of Bath's Prologue: Chaucer not a borrower from John of Salisbury, by the Rev. W. W. Woollcombe.

17. Supplementary Canterbury Tales: 1. The Tale of *Beryn*, with a Prologue of the merry Adventure of the Pardoner with a Tapster at Canterbury, re-edited from the Duke of Northumberland's unique MS, by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I, the Text, with Wm. Smith's Map of Canterbury in 1588, now first engravd from his unique MS., and Ogilby's Plan of the Road from London to Canterbury in 1675.

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Prof. Child, of Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the Society's Honorary Secretary for America. Members' names and subscriptions may be sent to the Publishers, or to the Honorary Secretary,

A. G. SNELGROVE, Esq.,
London Hospital, London, E.

Chaucer, Geoffrey,

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